

By Senator Wilson

33-03859-08

20082316__

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to access to health care; creating a
3 discount health care card pilot program in Miami-Dade
4 County; providing duties of the Agency for Health Care
5 Administration to implement the program; providing
6 conditions for provider funding through the program;
7 requiring the agency to reimburse participants in the
8 program under certain circumstances; requiring the agency
9 to submit an annual report for the duration of the program
10 with recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature;
11 providing sovereign immunity for health care providers
12 that participate in the program; providing an effective
13 date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
17 Section 1. Discount health care card pilot program.--

18 (1) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall
19 establish a discount health care card program as a 3-year pilot
20 program in Miami-Dade County. To implement the program, the
21 agency shall:

22 (a) Establish an alliance between hospitals, federally
23 qualified health centers, and free clinics in Miami-Dade County
24 to provide health care services at a discount to county
25 residents.

26 (b) To the extent that funding is available, negotiate with
27 hospitals, clinics, and federally qualified health centers
28 regarding rates associated with the discount health care card
29 program. To be eligible to receive state funding, the health care

33-03859-08

20082316__

30 provider must participate in the alliance. If a provider does not
31 participate in the alliance, the provider may not file an
32 application for a certificate of need or participate in the
33 personal care attendant program.

34 (c) Make services of the program available to any resident
35 of Miami-Dade County who submits an application to the agency and
36 meets the criteria under subsection (2).

37 (2) The agency shall reimburse a participant in the program
38 whose income is equal to or below 200 percent of the then-current
39 federal poverty guidelines up to 25 percent of the costs incurred
40 for health care services that equal \$20,000 or more with low-
41 income pool funds according to published federal statutes,
42 regulations, and waivers and the low-income pool methodology
43 approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
44 Services. The participant shall agree to an installment payment
45 plan established by the hospital. If the participant fails to pay
46 the amount agreed upon for 4 consecutive months, the participant
47 shall be removed from the program until the unpaid balance is
48 paid.

49 (3) Each participant in the program shall have an
50 electronic medical record. The hospital, clinic, or federally
51 qualified health center that provides services to the participant
52 shall be the designated administrator of the electronic medical
53 record.

54 (4) Each January 1, for the duration of the 3-year pilot
55 program, the agency shall submit to the Governor, the President
56 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives an
57 annual report on the success and outcomes achieved by the pilot
58 program, which must include a recommendation as to whether the

33-03859-08

20082316__

59 pilot program should be continued, terminated, or expanded.

60 (5) Health care providers that contract to provide services
61 under this program shall be considered agents of the state and
62 afforded sovereign immunity protection as provided under s.
63 766.1115, Florida Statutes.

64 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.