

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to transitional services for youth and  
 3           young adults with disabilities; creating a health care  
 4           transition services task force within the Department of  
 5           Health; providing legislative intent; providing for  
 6           membership, duties, and responsibilities of the task  
 7           force; providing for reimbursement of members for  
 8           expenses; requiring the task force to assess the need for  
 9           health care transition services and provide a report to  
 10          the Governor and the Legislature; providing for expiration  
 11          of the task force; providing an effective date.

12  
 13   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14  
 15           Section 1. Health Care Transition Services Task Force for  
 16           Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities.--

17           (1) The Department of Health shall create a statewide  
 18           Health Care Transition Services Task Force for Youth and Young  
 19           Adults with Disabilities. It is the intent of the Legislature  
 20           that the task force assess the need for health care transition  
 21           services for youth and young adults with disabilities, develop  
 22           strategies to ensure successful transition from the pediatric to  
 23           the adult health care system, and identify existing and  
 24           potential funding sources. The task force shall be composed of  
 25           14 members and shall have representatives from at least three  
 26           geographic areas in the state, representing rural, suburban, and  
 27           urban areas.

28           (2) The task force shall be composed of the following

29 persons:

30 (a) The director of the Division of Children's Medical  
31 Services Network within the Department of Health or his or her  
32 designee who shall be the chairperson of the task force.

33 (b) A representative from the children's health care  
34 medical community.

35 (c) A representative from the adult health care medical  
36 community.

37 (d) The director of the Agency for Persons with  
38 Disabilities or his or her designee.

39 (e) Two representatives of associations that advocate for  
40 persons who have chronic medical conditions or disabilities,  
41 such as the American Diabetes Association, the Sickle Cell  
42 Foundation, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, United Cerebral  
43 Palsy, the Spina Bifida Association, or the Down Syndrome  
44 Association.

45 (f) Two young adults who have chronic health problems or  
46 developmental disabilities or a family member of such young  
47 adults.

48 (g) The deputy commissioner of the Division of Vocational  
49 Rehabilitation within the Department of Education or his or her  
50 designee.

51 (h) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.

52 (i) The Secretary of Health Care Administration or his or  
53 her designee.

54 (j) The Secretary of Children and Family Services or his  
55 or her designee.

56 (k) A person appointed by the President of the Senate.

57 (1) A person appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
58 Representatives.

59 (3) The Department of Health shall provide staff support  
60 to the task force. Task force members who are not public  
61 officers or employees shall serve without compensation, but are  
62 entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses  
63 incurred as provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes, in  
64 carrying out their duties, which shall be paid by the Department  
65 of Health. Members who are public officers or employees shall be  
66 reimbursed by the budget entity through which they are  
67 compensated.

68 (4) The task force shall:

69 (a) Convene by August 31, 2008.

70 (b) Obtain input from key stakeholders, community  
71 stakeholders, public agencies, the medical practice community,  
72 and youth and young adults who have chronic special health care  
73 needs and disabilities and their families to assess the need for  
74 health care transition services and to identify barriers that  
75 impede access to comprehensive medical treatment and health care  
76 for youth and young adults who have chronic special health care  
77 needs and disabilities.

78 (c) Develop a statewide plan to promote the development of  
79 health care transition services. The plan shall put forth  
80 different models that accommodate the geographic and cultural  
81 diversity in the state and that are adapted to the local needs  
82 of communities and to local health services delivery systems.  
83 Furthermore, the plan shall promote the integration of health  
84 care transition services with transition programs for education,

85 vocation, and independent living.

86 (d) Identify common or comparable performance measures for  
87 all entities that serve the needs for health care transition  
88 services of youth and young adults who have chronic special  
89 health care needs and disabilities.

90 (e) Collect and disseminate information concerning best  
91 practices in health care transition services for youth and young  
92 adults who have chronic special health care needs and  
93 disabilities.

94 (f) Identify existing and potential funding sources to  
95 create health care transition services within communities.

96 (5) The task force shall present a final report of its  
97 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of  
98 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
99 January 1, 2009, and shall expire upon the submission of the  
100 report.

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