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

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

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

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

26 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following
27 persons:

28 (a) The Deputy Secretary of Children's Medical Services
29 within the Department of Health or his or her designee who shall

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30 be the chairperson of the task force.

31 (b) A representative from the children's health care
32 medical community.

33 (c) A representative from the adult health care medical
34 community.

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

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

42 (f) Two young adults who have chronic health problems or
43 developmental disabilities or a family member of such young
44 adults.

45 (g) The deputy commissioner of the Division of Vocational
46 Rehabilitation within the Department of Education or his or her
47 designee.

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

49 (i) The Secretary of Health Care Administration or his or
50 her designee.

51 (j) The Secretary of Children and Family Services or his or
52 her designee.

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

54 (l) A person appointed by the Speaker of the House of
55 Representatives.

56 (3) The Department of Health shall provide staff support to
57 the task force. Task force members who are not public officers or
58 employees shall serve without compensation, but are entitled to

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59 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses incurred as
60 provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes, in carrying out their
61 duties, which shall be paid by the Department of Health. Members
62 who are public officers or employees shall be reimbursed by the
63 budget entity through which they are compensated.

64 (4) The task force shall:

65 (a) Convene by August 31, 2008.

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

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

82 (d) Identify common or comparable performance measures for
83 all entities that serve the needs for health care transition
84 services of youth and young adults who have chronic special
85 health care needs and disabilities.

86 (e) Collect and disseminate information concerning best
87 practices in health care transition services for youth and young

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88 adults who have chronic special health care needs and
89 disabilities.

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

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

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