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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Floor: WD/2R

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04/29/2009 05:36 PM

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Senator Storms moved the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 248 - 307

and insert:

Section 5. Section 420.6275, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

420.6275 Housing First.-

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.-

(a) The Legislature finds that many communities plan to
manage homelessness rather than plan to end it.

(b) The Legislature also finds that for most of the past
two decades, public and private solutions to homelessness have



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13 focused on providing individuals and families who are
14 experiencing homelessness with emergency shelter, transitional
15 housing, or a combination of both. While emergency shelter
16 programs may provide critical access to services for individuals
17 and families in crisis, they often fail to address their long-
18 term needs.

19 (c) The Legislature further finds that Housing First is an
20 alternative approach to the current system of emergency shelter
21 or transitional housing which tends to reduce the length of time
22 of homelessness and has proven to be cost-effective.

23 (d) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
24 encourage homeless continuums of care to adopt the Housing First
25 approach to ending homelessness for individuals and families.

26 (2) HOUSING FIRST METHODOLOGY.-

27 (a) The Housing First approach to homelessness differs from
28 traditional approaches by providing housing assistance, case
29 management, and support services responsive to individual or
30 family needs after housing is obtained. By using this approach
31 when appropriate, communities can significantly reduce the
32 amount of time that individuals and families are homeless and
33 prevent further episodes of homelessness. Housing First
34 emphasizes that social services provided to enhance individual
35 and family well-being can be more effective when people are in
36 their own home, and:

37 1. The housing is not time-limited.

38 2. The housing is not contingent on compliance with
39 services. Instead, participants must comply with a standard
40 lease agreement and are provided with the services and support
41 that are necessary to help them do so successfully.



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42 3. A background check and any rehabilitation necessary to
43 combat an addiction related to alcoholism or substance abuse has
44 been completed by the individual for whom assistance or support
45 services are provided.

46 (b) The Housing First approach addresses the societal
47 causes of homelessness and advocates for the immediate return of
48 individuals and families into housing and communities. Housing
49 First provides a critical link between the emergency and
50 transitional housing system and community-based social service,
51 educational, and health care organizations and consists of four
52 components:

- 53 1. Crisis intervention and short-term stabilization.
54 2. Screening, intake, and needs assessment.
55 3. Provision of housing resources.
56 4. Provision of case management.

57
58 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

59 And the title is amended as follows:

60 Delete lines 18 - 19

61 and insert:

62 creating s. 420.6275, F.S.; creating the Housing