

CS/HB 745

2009

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to prepaid services for parents of
3 children with developmental disabilities; creating the
4 Prepaid Services for Parents of Children with
5 Developmental Disabilities Study Group to evaluate the
6 creation of a prepaid service plan for children with
7 disabilities; providing for membership; providing for
8 administrative support; providing for the duties of the
9 study group; providing for per diem and travel expenses
10 for members; requiring the study group to present a final
11 report to the Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. (1) The Prepaid Services for Parents of
16 Children with Developmental Disabilities Study Group is created
17 for the purpose of evaluating the creation of a prepaid service
18 plan for children with disabilities modeled after the Florida
19 prepaid college program. Such a prepaid service plan would allow
20 funds to be paid into a plan on behalf of a child and then, when
21 the child exits an exceptional student program, provide the
22 child with a voucher to purchase additional services from a
23 qualified, willing service provider. These services would
24 provide support to help the parent retain the benefits to the
25 child of the exceptional student program and to help the child
26 transition to the workforce whenever possible.

27 (2) The study group shall consist of the following:

28 | (a) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by
 29 | the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

30 | (b) A member of the Senate appointed by the President of
 31 | the Senate.

32 | (c) The director of the Agency for Persons with
 33 | Disabilities, or his or her designee.

34 | (d) The director of the Division of Vocational
 35 | Rehabilitation, or his or her designee.

36 | (e) The executive director of the State Board of
 37 | Administration, or his or her designee.

38 | (f) The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.

39 | (g) The executive director of The Arc of Florida, or his
 40 | or her designee.

41 | (h) An Arc of Florida family board member appointed by the
 42 | executive director of The Arc of Florida.

43 | (i) The chairperson of the Family Care Council Florida, or
 44 | his or her designee.

45 | (j) A parent representative from the Family Care Council
 46 | Florida appointed by the chairperson of the Family Care Council
 47 | Florida.

48 | (3) The Agency for Persons with Disabilities shall provide
 49 | administrative support for the study group.

50 | (4) The study group shall evaluate and develop findings
 51 | and recommendations regarding the following:

52 | (a) The services for which such a voucher could be used.

53 | (b) The financial requirements for such a system.

54 | (c) The qualifications of service providers.

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55 (d) The steps that would be necessary to qualify prepaid
56 service plan funds for a federal waiver match program or other
57 federal funding and the possibilities of such a waiver match or
58 other federal funding.

59 (5) Members of the study group shall serve without
60 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
61 travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

62 (6) The members of the study group shall be appointed by
63 July 30, 2009, and shall hold their first meeting by September
64 1, 2009. The final report of the study group shall be presented
65 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
66 Representatives no later than January 29, 2010. The group is
67 abolished and this section is repealed upon submission of the
68 group's final report.

69 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.