

HB 1527

2010

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to maternal and child health; creating s.
3 383.2163, F.S., the "Florida Nurse Home Visitation Act";
4 providing a short title; establishing a nurse home
5 visitation pilot program in specified areas; providing
6 purpose; providing definitions; requiring local Healthy
7 Start coalitions to administer the program; providing
8 duties of the Department of Health; providing for
9 administration and evaluation of the program; providing
10 eligibility requirements; requiring the department to
11 adopt standards and guidelines; requiring the department
12 to submit an annual report to the Governor and
13 Legislature; providing an effective date.

14
15 WHEREAS, in order to adequately care for their newborns and
16 young children, new mothers may often seek and benefit from
17 receiving professional assistance and information, and, without
18 such assistance and information, a young mother may develop
19 habits or practices that are detrimental to her health and well-
20 being and the health and well-being of her child, and

21 WHEREAS, inadequate prenatal care and inadequate care in
22 infancy and early childhood often inhibit a child's ability to
23 learn and develop throughout his or her childhood and may have
24 lasting, adverse effects on the child's ability to function as
25 an adult, and

26 WHEREAS, implementation of a nurse home visitation program
27 that provides educational, health, and other resources for new
28 mothers during pregnancy and the first years of their infants'

29 | lives has been proven to significantly reduce the number of
 30 | premature births, the incidence of drug, tobacco, and alcohol
 31 | use and abuse by mothers, the occurrence of criminal activity
 32 | engaged in by mothers and their children under 15 years of age,
 33 | and the number of reported incidents of child abuse and neglect,
 34 | and

35 | WHEREAS, one example of this type of program, the Nurse-
 36 | Family Partnership, has succeeded in reducing the number of a
 37 | mother's subsequent births, increasing the length of time
 38 | between subsequent births, reducing the mother's need for other
 39 | forms of public assistance, and promoting the overall health and
 40 | developmental outcomes for the mother and her young children,
 41 | and

42 | WHEREAS, the Nurse-Family Partnership model has been shown
 43 | to be cost effective, yielding a 5-to-1 return on investment for
 44 | every dollar spent on evidence-based nurse home visitation
 45 | services and producing a net benefit of \$34,000 per high-risk
 46 | family served, NOW, THEREFORE,

47 |
 48 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

49 |
 50 | Section 1. Section 383.2163, Florida Statutes, is created
 51 | to read:

52 | 383.2163 Nurse home visitation pilot program.—

53 | (1) This section may be cited as the "Florida Nurse Home
 54 | Visitation Act."

55 | (2) A nurse home visitation pilot program is established
 56 | in the Lee County Healthy Start coalition service area. The

57 existing program in the Palm Beach County Healthy Start
58 coalition service area is included in the pilot program. The
59 purpose of the pilot program is to provide regular, in-home,
60 visiting nurse services to low-income, first-time mothers who
61 are identified as eligible based on the results of Healthy Start
62 risk screening. Visiting nurses shall educate mothers about the
63 importance of personal health, child health and development,
64 education and employment, and building supportive relationships.
65 In addition, visiting nurses may provide assistance to improve
66 the home and surrounding environment, manage child care, and
67 provide families with access to other community services. Any
68 assistance provided through the program shall be provided only
69 with the consent of the low-income, first-time mother. Services
70 shall begin during the mother's pregnancy and continue until her
71 child's second birthday; however, the mother may refuse to
72 continue receiving services at any time.

73 (3) As used in this section, the term:

74 (a) "Department" means the Department of Health.

75 (b) "Local entity" means the local Healthy Start
76 coalition.

77 (c) "Low-income" means having an annual household income
78 that does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

79 (d) "Nurse" means a registered nurse, licensed practical
80 nurse, clinical nurse specialist, or advanced registered nurse
81 practitioner as defined in s. 464.003.

82 (e) "Pilot program" or "program" means the nurse home
83 visitation pilot program established under this section.

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84 (4) The program shall be administered by the local entity
85 and provide services to a minimum of 100 low-income, first-time
86 mothers in that community who are identified as eligible based
87 on the results of Healthy Start risk screening. The department
88 may waive this requirement if the population base of the
89 community does not include 100 eligible mothers. The department
90 shall ensure the ability of the local entity to implement the
91 program within the smaller community and maintain compliance
92 with program requirements. A mother is eligible to receive
93 services through the program if she is pregnant with her first
94 child and her gross annual household income does not exceed 200
95 percent of the federal poverty level.

96 (5) The department shall adopt standards and guidelines to
97 implement this section. Standards and guidelines that establish
98 program training requirements, protocols, management information
99 systems, and evaluation requirements shall be modeled after
100 practices and procedures of research-based programs that have
101 been implemented in one or more other states for at least 5
102 years. In order to produce sizeable, sustained outcomes for
103 families who receive services through the pilot program, the
104 department shall ensure that services are provided in accordance
105 with program standards that have been replicated in randomized
106 controlled trials conducted at multiple sites and that have
107 shown significant reductions in:

108 (a) The number of babies born prematurely or with low
109 birth weight.

110 (b) The occurrence of infant behavioral impairments due to
111 a mother's use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

112 (c) The number of reported incidents of child abuse and
 113 neglect.

114 (d) The number of subsequent pregnancies.

115 (e) The number of mothers receiving public assistance.

116 (f) Criminal activity engaged in by a mother or her child
 117 or children.

118 (6) The department shall monitor the administration of the
 119 program to ensure that the program is implemented according to
 120 the program training requirements, protocols, management
 121 information systems, and evaluation requirements established by
 122 the department. The department shall evaluate the program and
 123 submit an annual report of its findings and recommendations on
 124 or before January 1 of each year to the Governor, the President
 125 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

126 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.