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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/15/2010	.	
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The Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means (Fasano) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 519 and 520
insert:

Section 13. Section 409.91255, Florida Statutes, is amended
to read:

409.91255 Federally qualified health center access
program.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
"Community Health Center Access Program Act."

(2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

(a) The Legislature finds that, despite significant



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13 investments in health care programs, nearly 6 ~~more than 2~~
14 million low-income Floridians, primarily the working poor and
15 minority populations, continue to lack access to basic health
16 care services. Further, the Legislature recognizes that
17 federally qualified health centers have a proven record of
18 providing cost-effective, comprehensive primary and preventive
19 health care and are uniquely qualified to address the lack of
20 adequate health care services for the uninsured.

21 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize the
22 significance of increased federal investments in federally
23 qualified health centers and to leverage that investment through
24 the creation of a program to provide for the expansion of the
25 primary and preventive health care services offered by federally
26 qualified health centers. Further, such a program will support
27 the coordination of federal, state, and local resources to
28 assist such health centers in developing an expanded community-
29 based primary care delivery system.

30 (3) ASSISTANCE TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.—The
31 agency shall administer ~~Department of Health shall develop~~ a
32 program for the expansion of federally qualified health centers
33 for the purpose of providing comprehensive primary and
34 preventive health care and urgent care services that may reduce
35 the morbidity, mortality, and cost of care among the uninsured
36 population of the state. The program shall provide for
37 distribution of financial assistance to federally qualified
38 health centers that apply and demonstrate a need for such
39 assistance in order to sustain or expand the delivery of primary
40 and preventive health care services. In selecting centers to
41 receive this financial assistance, the program:



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42 (a) Shall give preference to communities that have few or
43 no community-based primary care services or in which the current
44 services are unable to meet the community's needs. To assist in
45 the assessment and identification of areas of critical need, a
46 federally qualified-health-center-based statewide assessment and
47 strategic plan shall be developed by the Florida Association of
48 Community Health Centers, Inc., every 5 years, beginning January
49 1, 2011.

50 (b) Shall require that primary care services be provided to
51 the medically indigent using a sliding fee schedule based on
52 income.

53 (c) Shall promote ~~allow~~ innovative and creative uses of
54 federal, state, and local health care resources.

55 (d) Shall require that the funds provided be used to pay
56 for operating costs of a projected expansion in patient
57 caseloads or services or for capital improvement projects.
58 Capital improvement projects may include renovations to existing
59 facilities or construction of new facilities, provided that an
60 expansion in patient caseloads or services to a new patient
61 population will occur as a result of the capital expenditures.
62 The agency ~~department~~ shall include in its standard contract
63 document a requirement that any state funds provided for the
64 purchase of or improvements to real property are contingent upon
65 the contractor granting to the state a security interest in the
66 property at least to the amount of the state funds provided for
67 at least 5 years from the date of purchase or the completion of
68 the improvements or as further required by law. The contract
69 must include a provision that, as a condition of receipt of
70 state funding for this purpose, the contractor agrees that, if



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71 it disposes of the property before the agency's ~~department's~~
72 interest is vacated, the contractor will refund the
73 proportionate share of the state's initial investment, as
74 adjusted by depreciation.

75 (e) Shall ~~May~~ require in-kind support from other sources.

76 (f) Shall promote ~~May encourage~~ coordination among
77 federally qualified health centers, other private sector
78 providers, and publicly supported programs.

79 (g) Shall promote ~~allow~~ the development of community
80 emergency room diversion programs in conjunction with local
81 resources, providing extended hours of operation to urgent care
82 patients. Diversion programs shall include case management for
83 emergency room followup care.

84 (4) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—A review panel shall be
85 established, consisting of four persons appointed by the
86 Secretary of Health Care Administration ~~State Surgeon General~~
87 and three persons appointed by the chief executive officer of
88 the Florida Association of Community Health Centers, Inc., to
89 review all applications for financial assistance under the
90 program. Applicants shall specify in the application whether the
91 program funds will be used for the expansion of patient
92 caseloads or services or for capital improvement projects to
93 expand and improve patient facilities. The panel shall use the
94 following elements in reviewing application proposals and shall
95 determine the relative weight for scoring and evaluating these
96 elements:

97 (a) The target population to be served.

98 (b) The health benefits to be provided.

99 (c) The methods that will be used to measure cost-



100 effectiveness.
101 (d) How patient satisfaction will be measured.
102 (e) The proposed internal quality assurance process.
103 (f) Projected health status outcomes.
104 (g) How data will be collected to measure cost-
105 effectiveness, health status outcomes, and overall achievement
106 of the goals of the proposal.
107 (h) All resources, including cash, in-kind, voluntary, or
108 other resources that will be dedicated to the proposal.
109 (5) ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The agency
110 shall ~~Department of Health may~~ contract with the Florida
111 Association of Community Health Centers, Inc., to develop and
112 coordinate ~~administer~~ the program and provide technical
113 assistance to the federally qualified health centers selected to
114 receive financial assistance. The contracted entity shall be
115 responsible for program support and assume all costs related to
116 administration of this program.

117
118 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

119 And the title is amended as follows:

120 Delete line 76
121 and insert:
122 program; amending s. 409.91255, F.S.; transferring
123 administrative responsibility for the application
124 procedure for federally qualified health centers from
125 the Department of Health to the Agency for Health Care
126 Administration; requiring the Florida Association of
127 Community Health Centers, Inc., to provide support and
128 assume administrative costs for the program; repealing



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129

s. 429.12(2), F.S., relating to the