



594-01065-16

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Fiscal Policy  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to individuals with disabilities;  
creating s. 17.68, F.S.; providing legislative  
findings; establishing the Financial Literacy Program  
for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities within  
the Department of Financial Services; requiring the  
department to develop and implement the program in  
consultation with specified stakeholders; providing  
for the participation of banks, credit unions, savings  
associations, and savings banks; requiring the program  
to provide information, resources, outreach, and  
education on specified issues to individuals with  
developmental disabilities and employers in this  
state; requiring the department to establish on its  
website a clearinghouse for information regarding the  
program and to publish a brochure describing the  
program; requiring, by a specified date, qualified  
public depositories to make copies of the department's  
brochure available and provide a hyperlink on their  
websites to the department's website for the program;  
providing that qualified public depositories are not  
subject to civil liability arising from the  
distribution and contents of the brochure and the  
program website information; amending s. 280.16, F.S.;  
requiring a qualified public depository to participate  
in the program; providing an appropriation; providing  
an effective date.



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

Section 1. Section 17.68, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

17.68 Financial Literacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.-

(1) The Legislature finds that the state has a compelling interest in promoting the economic independence and successful employment of individuals with developmental disabilities as defined in s. 393.063. In comparison with the general population, individuals with developmental disabilities experience lower rates of educational achievement, employment, and annual earnings and are more likely to live in poverty. Additionally, such individuals must navigate a complex network of federal and state programs in order to be eligible for financial and health benefits. Thus, it is essential that these individuals have sufficient financial management knowledge and skills to effectively participate in benefit eligibility determination processes and make informed decisions regarding financial services and products provided by financial institutions. Enhancing the financial literacy of such individuals will provide a pathway for economic independence and successful employment.

(2) The Financial Literacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities is established within the Department of Financial Services. The department, in consultation with public and private stakeholders, shall develop and implement the program, which must be designed to promote the economic



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57 independence and successful employment of individuals with  
58 developmental disabilities. Banks, credit unions, savings  
59 associations, and savings banks will be key participants in the  
60 development and promotion of the program, which must provide  
61 information, resources, outreach, and education in the following  
62 areas:

63 (a) For individuals with developmental disabilities:

64 1. Financial education, including instruction on money  
65 management skills and the effective use of financial services  
66 and products, to promote income preservation and asset  
67 development.

68 2. Identification of available financial and health benefit  
69 programs and services.

70 3. Job training programs and employment opportunities,  
71 including work incentives and state and local workforce  
72 development programs.

73 4. The impact of earnings and assets on eligibility for  
74 federal and state financial and health benefit programs, and  
75 options to manage such impact.

76 (b) For employers in this state, strategies to make program  
77 information and educational materials available to their  
78 employees with developmental disabilities.

79 (3) The department shall:

80 (a) Establish on its website a clearinghouse for  
81 information regarding the program and other resources available  
82 for individuals with developmental disabilities and their  
83 employers.

84 (b) Publish a brochure describing the program, which is  
85 also accessible on its website.



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86           (4) Within 90 days after the department establishes the  
87 website clearinghouse and publishes the brochure, each bank,  
88 savings association, and savings bank that is a qualified public  
89 depository as defined in s. 280.02 shall:

90           (a) Make copies of the department's brochures available,  
91 upon the request of the consumer, at its principal place of  
92 business and each branch office located in this state which has  
93 in-person teller services by having copies of the brochure  
94 available or having the capability to print a copy of the  
95 brochure from the department's website. Upon request, the  
96 department shall provide copies of the brochure to a bank,  
97 savings association, or savings bank.

98           (b) Provide on its website a hyperlink to the department's  
99 website clearinghouse. If the department changes the website  
100 address for the clearinghouse, the bank, savings association, or  
101 savings bank must update the hyperlink within 90 days after  
102 notification by the department of such change.

103           (5) A participating qualified public depository is not  
104 subject to civil liability arising from the distribution or  
105 nondistribution of the brochure or program website information.  
106 The contents of the brochure or the program website information  
107 may not be attributed to a participating qualified public  
108 depository by virtue of its distribution, and do not constitute  
109 financial or investment advice by, nor create a fiduciary duty  
110 on, the participating qualified public depository to the  
111 recipient.

112           Section 2. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (1) of  
113 section 280.16, Florida Statutes, to read:

114           280.16 Requirements of qualified public depositories;



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115 confidentiality.-

116 (1) In addition to any other requirements specified in this  
117 chapter, qualified public depositories shall:

118 (e) Participate in the Financial Literacy Program for  
119 Individuals with Developmental Disabilities as required under s.  
120 17.68.

121 Section 3. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of  
122 \$69,570 in recurring funds from the Insurance Regulatory Trust  
123 Fund is appropriated to the Consumer Assistance Program within  
124 the Department of Financial Services for the purpose of  
125 implementing the program created by this act.

126 Section 4. This act shall take effect January 1, 2017.