

By Senator Grall

29-00938C-24

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to pregnancy support services;  
3           creating s. 381.97, F.S.; providing legislative  
4           intent; establishing the Florida State Maternity  
5           Housing Grant Program within the Department of Health;  
6           requiring the program to provide certain resources;  
7           requiring the department to use grant funds for  
8           specified expenses; providing a limitation on the  
9           amount of grants awarded under the program;  
10          authorizing the department to adopt rules necessary to  
11          administer the program; providing an effective date.

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15           Section 1. Section 381.97, Florida Statutes, is created to  
16           read:

17           381.97 Florida State Maternity Housing Grant Program.—

18           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide housing  
19           resources for resident women and families experiencing  
20           homelessness during the prenatal period, regardless of age or  
21           marital status, whose financial resources have been determined  
22           inadequate to meet residential costs.

23           (2) There is created within the department the Florida  
24           State Maternity Housing Grant Program to provide approved living  
25           arrangements for residents experiencing homelessness during the  
26           prenatal period.

27           (3) The grant program shall provide resources for approved  
28           persons to reside in an alternative living arrangement for a  
29           period not to exceed 8 months, which includes a maximum of 6

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30 weeks of postpartum care.

31 (4) The department shall use grant funds specifically  
32 appropriated for the grant program to cover expenses related to  
33 any of the following:

34 (a) Housing in an authorized living arrangement for a  
35 period of time determined by the mother's estimated delivery  
36 date.

37 (b) Services recommended by the department for women and  
38 families approved for the grant program to encourage economic  
39 independence and positive health outcomes for participants.

40 (c) Staffing and reimbursements for providers of authorized  
41 living arrangements.

42 (d) All other related costs for the administration of the  
43 program, not to exceed five percent of the total grant funds.

44 (5) The total amount of grants awarded may not exceed the  
45 funding appropriated for the grant program.

46 (6) The department may adopt rules necessary to administer  
47 the program. The rules may include, but need not be limited to:

48 (a) A framework for the payment or reimbursement of funds  
49 to the mother for authorized living arrangements.

50 (b) Eligibility criteria for pregnant mothers and expecting  
51 families seeking maternity housing services, including a sliding  
52 fee scale for participants.

53 (c) Requirements for maternity housing grant program  
54 applications.

55 (d) Guidelines for assessing the appropriateness of  
56 authorized living arrangements and for a determination of  
57 approval for authorized living arrangements.

58 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.