

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** CS/HB 415 Pregnancy and Parenting Resources Website  
**SPONSOR(S):** Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, Jacques and others  
**TIED BILLS:**           **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 436

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**FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:** 83 Y's            33 N's            **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

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### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/HB 415 passed the House on February 15, 2024, and subsequently passed the Senate on March 5, 2024.

The transition to parenthood can be an overwhelming life event, with more than half of parents reporting feeling inadequately prepared. Florida provides numerous programs and resources to expectant and new families to assist with this transition. The Department of Health (DOH), Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) provide information related to a variety of pregnancy and parenting resources on their respective websites. However, unlike other states such as South Dakota, Texas, and North Dakota, Florida does not currently have a comprehensive state website containing information related to available public and private pregnancy and parenting resources.

CS/HB 415 requires DOH, in partnership with DCF and AHCA, to contract with a third-party to create a website that provides information and links to public and private pregnancy and parenting resources. The website must include, at a minimum, information on resources related to:

- Educational materials on pregnancy and parenting;
- Maternal health services;
- Prenatal and postnatal services;
- Educational and mentorship programs for fathers;
- Social services;
- Financial assistance;
- Adoption services.

The bill also requires DOH, DCF, and AHCA to include a clear and conspicuous link to the website on their respective websites. The pregnancy and parenting resources website must be functional by January 1, 2025.

The bill appropriates \$466,200 in nonrecurring funds from the Administrative Trust Fund to DOH to implement its provisions, and has no fiscal impact on local governments.

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 17, 2024, ch. 2024-198, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024.

## I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

### A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

#### Background

In 2022, there were 224,403 recorded births in Florida.<sup>1</sup> The transition to parenthood can be an overwhelming life event, with more than half of parents' report feeling inadequately prepared.<sup>2</sup> Florida provides a variety of resources, private and public, that can help expectant families and new parents to assist with this transition. The Department of Health (DOH), Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) provide information related to pregnancy and parenting resources on their respective websites. Florida does not currently have a comprehensive state website containing information related to available public and private pregnancy and parenting resources.

#### Department of Health

DOH is the designated agency for administering maternal and child health services.<sup>3</sup> DOH provides the following links related to pregnancy resources on its website:<sup>4</sup>

- After Pregnancy
- Community Involvement
- Count the Kicks
- Emergency Preparedness for Pregnant Women
- Family Health Line
- Florida Birth Defects Registry
- Florida Pregnancy Support Services Program
- Flu and Pregnancy
- Healthy Start
- High Blood Pressure and Preeclampsia
- Perinatal Hepatitis B
- Preconception Health
- Pregnancy and Diabetes
- Prenatal Care
- Safe Haven for Newborns
- Text4baby
- Tobacco Use in Pregnancy
- Umbilical Cord Blood Banking
- Zika Virus

DOH provides the following links related to parenting resources:<sup>5</sup>

- Early Steps Program
- Healthy Start
- WIC

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<sup>1</sup> FL Health Charts, *Birth Counts Query System*, [https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY\\_New/Birth/Count](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY_New/Birth/Count) (last visited March 6, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> National Library of Medicine, *Preparing Parents for Parenthood: Protocol for a randomized controlled Trial of a Preventative Parenting Intervention for Expectant Parents*, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6064107/> (last visited March 6, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> S. 383.011(1), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Florida Department of Health, *Pregnancy*, <https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/womens-health/pregnancy/index.html> (last visited March 6, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Florida Department of Health, *New Parents*, <https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/vital-statistics/index.html> (last visited March 6, 2024).

- Childhood Immunizations
- Newborn Screening
- Florida Poison Control
- Bright Expectations
- 2-1-1<sup>6</sup>
- Florida Prepaid
- Birth Certificates

DOH does not provide an explanation for the content of each of these topics. Instead, a user must explore each one of these items and determine if it contains the information they are seeking. This reduces ease of use and may potentially create confusion for individuals who are not familiar with pregnancy and parenting resources and programs. Additionally, the public and private resources identified in the website are generally limited to the types of services offered or funded by DOH.

### Department of Children and Families

DCF's mission is to promote strong and economically self-sufficient families and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency.<sup>7</sup> DCF's website provides information on resources available to pregnant women and families related to food and cash assistance, Medicaid eligibility determination and resources for people experiencing homelessness, among other programs. The public and private resources identified in the website are generally limited to the types of services offered by DCF.

### Agency for Health Care Administration

AHCA is the chief health policy and planning entity for the state and is responsible for implementation of the Medicaid program.<sup>8</sup> AHCA's website provides resources on the Medicaid program, including reproductive services available to Medicaid recipients. This includes a list of the procedures Medicaid reimburses such as prenatal visits, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, counseling, surgical excision during pregnancy and cesarean section, among others.<sup>9</sup> Similar to the DOH and DCF websites, the information provided on the AHCA website is limited to the types of services and programs that AHCA offers.

### States with Comprehensive Pregnancy and Parenting Resource Websites

Several states have comprehensive pregnancy and parenting resource websites. For example, South Dakota, Texas, and North Dakota have comprehensive pregnancy and parenting resources websites which vary slightly and include:

- South Dakota - pregnancy, parenting, financial assistance, and adoption.<sup>10</sup>
- Texas - pregnancy support, parenting and caregiving, health care and financial assistance, adoption, and services available through Texas state agencies.<sup>11</sup>
- North Dakota - parenting, pregnancy, finance, behavioral health, programs, and locations.<sup>12</sup>

Below is an example of the South Dakota website.

<sup>6</sup> A phone line that connects callers to resources such as mental health, healthcare, paying bills, etc. 2-1-1, *Get Help*, <https://www.211.org/> (last visited March 13, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> S. 20.19(1), F.S.

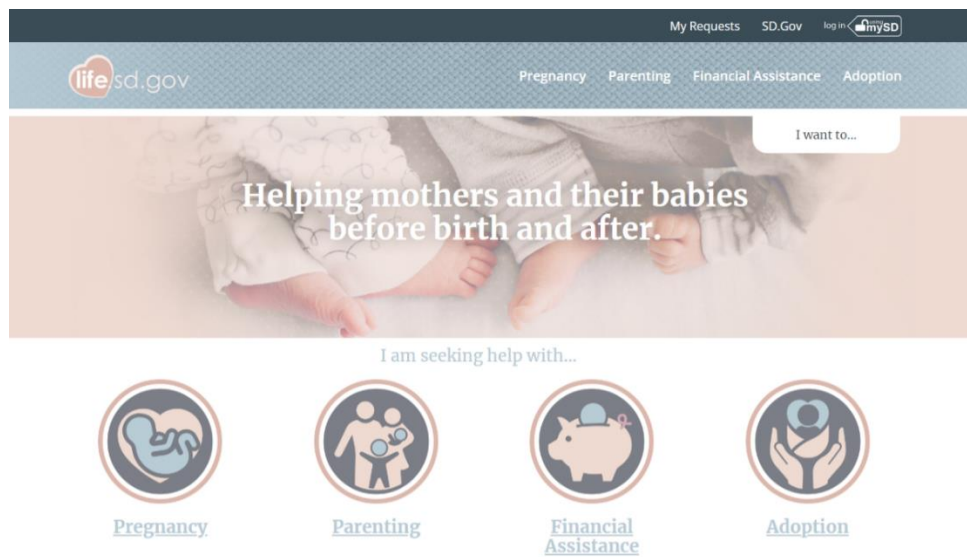
<sup>8</sup> S. 20.42(3), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, *Reproductive Services*, [Reproductive Services \(myflorida.com\)](https://myflorida.com) (last visited March 6, 2024).

<sup>10</sup> SD Life, *Helping Mothers and their Babies Before Birth and After*, [SD Life - SD Life](https://www.sdlife.org) (last visited March 6, 2024).

<sup>11</sup> Family Resources, *Resources for Families in all Stages of Life*, <https://www.familyresources.texas.gov/> (last visited March 6, 2024)

<sup>12</sup> Life ND, *Welcome to North Dakota's Pregnancy and Parenting Web site*, <https://www.life.nd.gov/> (last visited March 6, 2024).



Comprehensive websites may make it easier for expectant and new families to access available resources.

### State Agency Websites

State agencies in Florida operate statutorily required websites on various topics. For example:

- The Department of Education is required to develop an online portal for parents to choose the best education options for their students.<sup>13</sup>
- DCF is required to operate a website as part of the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative that allows a father to obtain information about effective parenting, identify areas in which support would enable him to enhance his ability to be an effective father, and be connected to such support, including, but not limited to, support provided by organizations receiving specified grants.<sup>14</sup>
- AHCA is required to contract with a vendor to provide a consumer-friendly, internet-based platform that allows a consumer to research the cost of health care services and procedures and allows for price comparison.<sup>15</sup>

### **Effect of the Bill**

CS/HB 415 requires DOH, in partnership with DCF and AHCA, to contract with a third-party to create a comprehensive website that provides information and links to public and private pregnancy and parenting resources. The website must include, at a minimum, information on resources related to:

- Educational materials on pregnancy and parenting;
- Maternal health services;
- Prenatal and postnatal services;
- Educational and mentorship programs for fathers;
- Social services;
- Financial assistance;
- Adoption services.

DOH, DCF, and AHCA must include a clear and conspicuous link to the website on their respective websites. The pregnancy and parenting resources website must be functional by January 1, 2025.

<sup>13</sup> S. 1001.10(10), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> S. 409.1464(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> S. 408.05(3)(c), F.S.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2024.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

DOH estimates the total cost to comply with the bill is \$466,200 (\$300 – URL domain name; \$261,900 – advance web designer; \$194,000 – project management; \$10,000 – IT support).<sup>16</sup>

The bill appropriates \$466,200 in nonrecurring funds from the Administrative Trust Fund to DOH to implement this bill.

### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

### C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

### D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

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<sup>16</sup> Correspondence from DOH to Health Care Regulation Subcommittee staff on file with the Health Care Regulation Subcommittee.