



826246

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/01/2025	.	
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The Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability  
(Burgess) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Part IV of chapter 23, Florida Statutes,  
consisting of ss. 23.41, 23.42, 23.43, 23.44, and 23.45, is  
created and entitled "Hope Florida."

Section 2. Section 23.41, Florida Statutes, is created to  
read:

23.41 Short title.—This part may be cited as the "Hope



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11 Florida Act.”

12 Section 3. Section 23.42, Florida Statutes, is created to  
13 read:

14 23.42 Hope Florida goals.—The goals of Hope Florida are to:

15 (1) Streamline access to support, services, and assistance  
16 so that residents in need can reach their full potential within  
17 their local communities and to holistically coordinate care  
18 through Hope Navigators.

19 (2) Facilitate alignment and coordination of participating  
20 state agencies.

21 (3) Break down traditional silos and establish a seamless  
22 network of support systems, managed through one centralized  
23 system comprised of private businesses, nonprofit entities,  
24 state agencies, and faith-based organizations, to effectively  
25 achieve desired outcomes and sustain long-term results including  
26 greater self-sufficiency, community integration, and the  
27 reduction of the participant’s sole reliance on government  
28 programs.

29 Section 4. Section 23.43, Florida Statutes, is created to  
30 read:

31 23.43 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

32 (1) “Care plan” means a written document that contains  
33 information provided by Hope Florida to its participants for  
34 whom Hope Florida has developed and customized actionable steps  
35 and corresponding timelines to assist the participants in  
36 achieving their immediate, intermediate, and long-term goals.  
37 The care plan must also address barriers by directly connecting  
38 participants to community resources and opportunities.

39 (2) “Hope Florida partner network” means a group of



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40 entities, including state agencies, public-private partnerships,  
41 and nonprofit, private-sector, and faith-based organizations,  
42 which is actively engaged in Hope Florida and which provides  
43 goods or services to directly support the participants' goals  
44 and address identified barriers.

45 (3) "Hope Line" means a statewide toll-free telephone  
46 number that serves as a hotline for Hope Florida inquiries and  
47 referrals for services.

48 (4) "Hope Navigators" means individuals who coordinate care  
49 and assist participants and families seeking services through  
50 Hope Florida.

51 (5) "Office" means the Hope Florida Office within the  
52 Executive Office of the Governor.

53 (6) "Participant" means an individual who voluntarily  
54 participates in Hope Florida.

55 (7) "Participating state agency" means a state agency  
56 participating in Hope Florida at the direction of the Executive  
57 Office of the Governor.

58 Section 5. Section 23.44, Florida Statutes, is created to  
59 read:

60 23.44 Hope Florida Office; eligibility to participate;  
61 duties.-

62 (1) The Hope Florida Office is created within the Executive  
63 Office of the Governor. The director of the Hope Florida Office  
64 is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

65 (2) The office shall:

66 (a) Establish goals and strategies for Hope Florida.

67 (b) Facilitate coordination and collaboration among  
68 participating state agencies to achieve these goals.



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69       (c) Expand the Hope Florida partner network to meet the  
70 needs of participants.

71       (d) Empower and assist residents in need to help identify  
72 and achieve immediate, intermediate, and long-term goals and  
73 remove barriers to their personal goal achievement through the  
74 development and implementation of care plans in partnership with  
75 Hope Navigators.

76       (e) Use Hope Navigators to assist participants in  
77 identifying personal goals, developing individualized plans for  
78 achieving immediate, intermediate, and long-term goals,  
79 identifying and addressing barriers, and actively connecting  
80 participants to community resources and opportunities to achieve  
81 their goals.

82       (f) Use participating state agencies to serve families  
83 holistically in achieving self-sufficiency, maximizing community  
84 integration, and building a prosperous future. Barriers to self-  
85 sufficiency may include the inability to:

- 86       1. Obtain stable employment;  
87       2. Increase wages;  
88       3. Obtain the necessary skills for greater independence,  
89 education, or training;  
90       4. Meet basic needs; or  
91       5. Find stable housing.

92       (g) Refer participants requiring assistance with employment  
93 or vocational training to CareerSource Florida, Inc., and local  
94 workforce development boards or other entities to prepare,  
95 train, and place the participants in meaningful employment.

96       (3) (a) To participate in Hope Florida, an individual must  
97 be:



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- 98           1. A legal resident of this state.
- 99           2. A citizen of the United States or a permanent resident  
100 alien of the United States, as determined by the United States  
101 Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- 102           3.a. At least 18 years of age;
- 103           b. If emancipated, at least 16 years of age; or
- 104           c. If under 18 years of age and not emancipated, authorized  
105 to participate by written consent of his or her parent or  
106 guardian.
- 107           (b) Participation in Hope Florida is voluntary.
- 108           (c) Individuals may receive assistance by calling the Hope  
109 Line.
- 110           (4) The office shall designate a state agency to, at a  
111 minimum:
- 112           (a) Operate the Hope Line, which must be available, at a  
113 minimum, during business hours Monday through Friday.
- 114           (b) Develop and maintain a website for individuals to  
115 connect with Hope Florida.
- 116           (c) Develop and maintain a Hope Florida case management  
117 system that, at a minimum, conducts intake for Hope Florida  
118 inquiries and makes referrals for individuals and families in  
119 need of services.
- 120           Section 6. Section 23.45, Florida Statutes, is created to  
121 read:
- 122           23.45 Hope Navigators; care plans; Hope Florida partner  
123 network; participating state agencies.—
- 124           (1) (a) Hope Navigators are resources who must be embedded  
125 within communities and serve as catalysts and a single point of  
126 contact for participants. Hope Navigators shall use participant



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127 information to jointly develop and implement care plans and  
128 navigate and actively leverage community-based supports and  
129 opportunities to create a sustainable network of supports to  
130 help participants achieve their goals, overcome barriers, and  
131 realize their full potential.

132 (b) A care plan must, at a minimum, include actionable  
133 steps and corresponding timelines to address immediate,  
134 intermediate, and long-term goals and barriers to achieving such  
135 goals to help participants achieve their personal goals.  
136 Personal goals may include goals related to barriers to self-  
137 sufficiency.

138 (2) The Hope Florida partner network shall work to build a  
139 network of partnerships to sustain the effectiveness of Hope  
140 Florida.

141 (3)(a) State agencies shall participate in Hope Florida at  
142 the direction of the Executive Office of the Governor,  
143 including, but not limited to, the following agencies:

- 144 1. The Department of Children and Families.
- 145 2. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities.
- 146 3. The Department of Juvenile Justice.
- 147 4. The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office.
- 148 5. The Department of Education.
- 149 6. The Agency for Health Care Administration.
- 150 7. The Division of Emergency Management.
- 151 8. The Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- 152 9. The Department of Commerce.
- 153 10. The Department of Elderly Affairs.

154 (b) In order to use government resources more effectively  
155 and efficiently, participating state agencies shall use existing



156 resources and personnel, to the extent possible, to operate Hope  
157 Florida.

158 (c) Other public-private partners may also participate in  
159 Hope Florida at the direction of the office, including  
160 CareerSource Florida, Inc., and the Florida Commission on  
161 Community Service.

162 Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

163  
164 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

165 And the title is amended as follows:

166 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
167 and insert:

168 A bill to be entitled  
169 An act relating to Hope Florida; creating part IV of  
170 ch. 23, F.S., entitled "Hope Florida"; creating s.  
171 23.41, F.S.; providing a short title; creating s.  
172 23.42, F.S.; providing the goals of Hope Florida;  
173 creating s. 23.43, F.S.; defining terms; creating s.  
174 23.44, F.S.; creating the Hope Florida Office within  
175 the Executive Office of the Governor; requiring the  
176 Governor to appoint the director of the Hope Florida  
177 Office; providing that such director serves at the  
178 pleasure of the Governor; providing duties of the  
179 office; providing eligibility requirements for Hope  
180 Florida participants; specifying that participation in  
181 Hope Florida is voluntary; specifying mechanisms by  
182 which individuals may receive assistance; requiring  
183 the office to designate a state agency to perform  
184 certain functions; creating s. 23.45, F.S.; requiring



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185 that Hope Navigators be embedded in communities for  
186 specified purposes; requiring that care plans include  
187 certain steps and timelines; requiring the Hope  
188 Florida partner network to work to build a network of  
189 partnerships for a specified purpose; requiring  
190 specified state agencies to participate in Hope  
191 Florida at the direction of the Executive Office of  
192 the Governor; authorizing other entities to  
193 participate in Hope Florida at the direction of the  
194 office; providing an effective date.