

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2     An act relating to maternal health and early learning;  
3     providing a short title; creating s. 383.012, F.S.;  
4     requiring the Department of Health to establish a  
5     certain home visit program for expectant mothers;  
6     providing program requirements; amending s. 383.305,  
7     F.S.; authorizing the Agency for Health Care  
8     Administration to authorize reduced fees for an  
9     applicant or licensee for certain birthing centers;  
10    amending s. 383.31, F.S.; removing acceptance criteria  
11    for birthing centers; creating s. 383.55, F.S.;  
12    defining the term "blood pressure monitor and cuff";  
13    requiring the department to provide a blood pressure  
14    monitor and cuff to an expectant mother for certain  
15    purposes; requiring the department to create certain  
16    educational materials; creating ss. 395.3043 and  
17    395.6071, F.S.; defining the terms "doula" and  
18    "midwife"; authorizing a doula or midwife to be  
19    present with his or her client during childbirth  
20    inside of a hospital; creating s. 402.822, F.S.;  
21    requiring the Department of Children and Families to  
22    provide certain incentives for certain early learning  
23    centers; creating ss. 458.355 and 459.075, F.S.;  
24    revising continuing education requirements for  
25    physicians to include a review of certain Medicaid

26 payments for certain persons; amending s. 1002.83,  
27 F.S.; providing requirements for child care facilities  
28 that receive support from early learning coalitions;  
29 amending s. 1003.21, F.S.; revising the date by which  
30 children must attain a certain age to be required to  
31 attend school regularly; providing an effective date.

32  
33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

34  
35 **Section 1.** This act may be cited as "The Motherhood  
36 Initiative."

37 **Section 2. Section 383.012, Florida Statutes, is created**  
38 **to read:**

39 383.012 Home visit program for expectant mothers.—

40 (1) The Department of Health shall expand the current home  
41 visit program to include a home visit program for expectant  
42 mothers within the Healthy Start program, which shall include  
43 Healthy Start Care Coordination Programs.

44 (2) The program shall:

45 (a)1. Conduct screenings for expectant mothers for  
46 depression and substance abuse disorders provided by a  
47 registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse licensed under  
48 part I of chapter 464.

49 2. The department shall refer at-risk expectant mothers  
50 for mental health treatment.

51        (b) Ensure an expectant mother is monitoring her blood  
52 pressure and shall provide and review the educational materials  
53 created under s. 383.55(3) with the expectant mother.

54        (c) Include a 3 hour course on the care of a newborn  
55 including, but not limited to, bathing, dressing, and feeding;  
56 cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and setting up sleep routines for  
57 the newborn and the mother that hospitals and birth centers  
58 shall offer to a mother before going home with her newborn.

59        (3) Health insurance providers and Medicaid shall provide  
60 coverage for the program, as applicable.

61        **Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 383.305, Florida**  
62 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

63        383.305    Licensure; fees.—

64        (1) In accordance with s. 408.805, an applicant or a  
65 licensee shall pay a fee for each license application submitted  
66 under ss. 383.30-383.332 and part II of chapter 408. The amount  
67 of the fee shall be established by rule. The Agency for Health  
68 Care Administration may reduce the fees for an applicant or  
69 licensee under this section for birthing centers in rural and  
70 other medically underserved areas.

71        **Section 4. Section 383.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
72 **read:**

73        383.31    ~~Selection of clients;~~ Informed consent.—

74        ~~(1)(a) A birth center may accept only those patients who~~  
75 ~~are expected to have normal pregnancies, labors, and deliveries.~~

76        ~~(1)(b)~~ The criteria for the selection of clients and the  
77 establishment of risk status shall be defined by rule of the  
78 agency.

79        (2)(a) A patient may not be accepted for care at a birth  
80 center until the patient has signed a client informed-consent  
81 form.

82        (b) The agency shall develop a client informed-consent  
83 form to be used by the center to inform the client of the  
84 benefits and risks related to childbirth outside a hospital.

85        **Section 5. Section 383.55, Florida Statutes, is created to**  
86 **read:**

87        383.55 Coverage of blood pressure monitors and cuffs.—

88        (1) As used in this section, the term "blood pressure  
89 monitor and cuff" means a device designed for the purpose of  
90 aiding in the treatment of hypertension by measuring blood  
91 pressure levels through a validated blood pressure measurement  
92 device at home or elsewhere outside of the clinic setting.

93        (2) The Department of Health must provide a blood pressure  
94 monitor and cuff for an expectant mother to monitor for  
95 preeclampsia and must provide any necessary repairs or  
96 replacement parts for the blood pressure monitor and cuff.

97        (3) The department shall create educational materials on  
98 the use of the blood pressure monitor and cuff, including, but  
99 not limited to, the proper use of the blood pressure monitor and  
100 cuff and the urgent maternal warning signs and symptoms provided

by the Hear Her campaign of the United States Centers for  
Disease Control and Prevention.

**Section 6. Section 395.3043, Florida Statutes, is created  
to read:**

395.3043 Doula and midwife services.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Doula" means a nonmedical professional who provides  
physical, emotional, and informational support to individuals  
and families before, during, and after childbirth.

(b) "Midwife" has the same definition as in s. 467.003.

(2) A doula or midwife may be present with his or her  
client during childbirth inside of a hospital.

**Section 7. Section 395.6071, Florida Statutes, is created  
to read:**

395.6071 Doula and midwife services.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Doula" means a nonmedical professional who provides  
physical, emotional, and informational support to individuals  
and families before, during, and after childbirth.

(b) "Midwife" has the same definition as in s. 467.003.

(2) A doula or midwife may be present with his or her  
client during childbirth inside of a rural hospital.

**Section 8. Section 402.822, Florida Statutes, is created  
to read:**

402.822 Twenty-four hour early learning centers.—The

Department of Children and Families shall provide incentives for early learning centers to remain open 24 hours for the children of first responders, health care practitioners, and people of other industries who work nontraditional hours. Incentives for child care facilities may include, but need not be limited to:

(1) Raising subsidy rates for child care outside of traditional hours.

(2) Authorizing local agencies to restructure their subsidy systems.

(3) Authorizing counties to create contract nontraditional hours slots for child care providers or to create shared service agreements.

**Section 9. Section 458.355, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

458.355 Continuing education; Medicaid payment information.—The continuing education requirements prescribed by the board for a physician under this chapter or chapter 459 must include education on the mandatory Medicaid payments for a pregnant woman for the duration of her pregnancy and for the postpartum period consisting of the 12-month period beginning on the last day of her pregnancy.

**Section 10. Section 459.075, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

459.075 Continuing education; Medicaid payment information.—The continuing education requirements prescribed by

151 the board for a physician under this chapter, or chapter 458  
152 must include education on the mandatory Medicaid payments for a  
153 pregnant woman for the duration of her pregnancy and for the  
154 postpartum period consisting of the 12-month period beginning on  
155 the last day of her pregnancy.

156 **Section 11. Subsection (15) of section 1002.83, Florida**  
157 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

158 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

159 (15) (a) Each school district shall, upon request of the  
160 coalition, make a list of all individuals currently eligible to  
161 act as a substitute teacher within the school district, pursuant  
162 to rules adopted by the school district pursuant to s. 1012.35,  
163 available to an early learning coalition serving students within  
164 the school district.

165 (b) Child care facilities as defined in s. 402.302 may  
166 employ individuals listed as substitute instructors for the  
167 purpose of offering the school readiness program, the Voluntary  
168 Prekindergarten Education Program, and all other legally  
169 operating child care programs.

170 1. Child care facilities that receive support from early  
171 learning coalitions shall be called early learning centers.

172 2. The Department of Education will ensure appropriate  
173 instruction and pacing of an approved curriculum for each early  
174 learning center.

175 **Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**

176    **1003.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

177        1003.21    School attendance.—

178        (1)(a)~~1.~~    All children who have attained the age of 5 ~~6~~  
179    years or who will have attained the age of 5 ~~6~~ years by February  
180    1 of any school year or who are older than 5 ~~6~~ years of age but  
181    who have not attained the age of 16 years, except as otherwise  
182    provided, are required to attend school regularly during the  
183    entire school term.

184        ~~2.— Children who will have attained the age of 5 years on~~  
185    ~~or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for~~  
186    ~~admission to public kindergartens during that school year under~~  
187    ~~rules adopted by the district school board.~~

188        **Section 13.**    This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.