

CHAPTER 97-163

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1107

An act relating to elderly affairs; creating s. 430.071, F.S.; providing definitions; establishing the “Respite for Elders Living in Everyday Families” (RELIEF) program to be administered by the Office of Volunteer and Community Services in the Department of Elderly Affairs; providing for the screening, selection, and training of volunteers; providing other duties for the office; amending s. 430.502, F.S.; providing for a memory disorder clinic at Orlando Regional Healthcare System, Inc.; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 430.071, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

430.071 Respite for elders living in everyday families.—

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

(a) “Family unit” means one or more individuals whose primary residence is with a homebound elderly individual specifically for the purpose of providing care for that homebound elderly individual. The family does not necessarily need to be related by blood or marriage to the homebound elderly individual.

(b) “Respite” means in-home assistance for a homebound elderly individual from someone who is not a member of the family unit, which allows the family unit the ability to leave the homebound elderly individual for a period of time.

(c) “Stipend” means an allotment of funds to enable a diverse population of volunteers to provide services. The allotment of funds is for a period of service and is not an hourly wage.

(d) “Volunteer service system” means an organized network of volunteers and agencies engaged in supporting volunteers to assist a family unit that requires respite.

(2) The “Respite for Elders Living in Everyday Families” (RELIEF) program will provide in-home respite that is an expansion of respite that is currently available through other programs, specifically including evening and weekend respite. The purpose of this service is to increase the ability of a family unit to continue to care for a homebound elderly individual by providing in-home respite beyond the basic provisions of current public programs.

(3) Respite services shall be provided through a multigenerational corps of volunteers, volunteers who receive a stipend, and any other appropriate personnel as determined by the department.

(a) Volunteers shall be screened, selected, trained, and registered according to standards developed by the Office of Volunteer and Community Services in the Department of Elderly Affairs. These standards must be developed to ensure, at a minimum, the safety of a homebound elderly individual who will receive the respite service.

(b) Volunteers may be recruited from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, volunteer centers, religious organizations, college campuses, corporations, families, Retired Senior Volunteer Programs, Senior Companion Programs, and AmeriCorps Programs.

(4) To receive assistance from the RELIEF program, the family unit must be assessed according to the following guidelines developed by the department to determine the need for respite services. This assessment must determine, at a minimum, that:

(a) The family unit is unable to pay for respite without jeopardizing other basic needs, including, but not limited to, food, shelter, and medications.

(b) The homebound elderly individual for whom the family unit is caring is 60 years of age or older, requires assistance to remain in the home, and, without this assistance, would need to move to an assisted living facility or a nursing facility.

(5) A family unit that receives respite services from the RELIEF program is not excluded from receiving assistance from other governmental programs.

(6) The Office of Volunteer and Community Services shall:

(a) Systematically develop a volunteer service system in order to provide respite services under the RELIEF program. The office shall also implement, monitor, and evaluate the delivery of respite services under this program.

(b) Work collaboratively with local, state, and national organizations, including, but not limited to, the Florida Commission on Community Service, to promote the use of volunteers offering respite under this program.

(c) Encourage contributions and grants through public and private sources to promote the delivery of respite to assist family units providing care for homebound elderly individuals.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 430.502, Florida Statutes, is amended to read;

430.502 Alzheimer's disease; memory disorder clinics and day care and respite care programs.—

(1) ~~There is established~~ The Legislature shall fund:

(a) A memory disorder clinic at each of the three medical schools in this state;

(b) A memory disorder clinic at a major private nonprofit research-oriented teaching hospital, and may fund a memory disorder clinic at any of the other affiliated teaching hospitals;

(c) A memory disorder clinic at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville;

(d) A memory disorder clinic at the West Florida Regional Medical Center;

(e) The East Central Florida Memory Disorder Clinic at the Joint Center for Advanced Therapeutics and Biomedical Research of the Florida Institute of Technology and Holmes Regional Medical Center, Inc.; ~~and~~

(f) A memory disorder clinic at the Orlando Regional Healthcare System, Inc.; and

~~(g)~~(f) A memory disorder center located in a public hospital that is operated by an independent special hospital taxing district that governs multiple hospitals and is located in a county with a population greater than 800,000 persons,

for the purpose of conducting research and training in a diagnostic and therapeutic setting for persons suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related memory disorders. However, memory disorder clinics funded as of June 30, 1995, shall not receive decreased funding due solely to subsequent additions of memory disorder clinics in this subsection.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 29, 1997.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 1997.