

Council Substitute for House Bill No. 397

An act relating to caregivers for adults; authorizing the Department of Elderly Affairs to create a pilot program in specified counties to train persons to act as companions and provide certain services to frail adults in the community; specifying additional purposes of the pilot program; requiring an evaluation and report to the Legislature; providing appropriations; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) Beginning in the 2007-2008 fiscal year and for a period of no longer than 3 years, the Department of Elderly Affairs may establish a pilot program in Pasco County or Pinellas County, or both, to train persons to act as companions and provide personal assistance to frail adults 60 years of age or older in the community. The purposes of the pilot program are to:

(a) Assist in meeting the growing demand for in-home companion care services and personal care services and preventing costly and premature institutional placements; and

(b) Act as a direct referral service for the Department of Elderly Affairs.

(2) By January 1, 2010, if the pilot program is established, the Department of Elderly Affairs shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which includes the status of the implementation of the program, the number of persons who have been trained to provide community-based care for frail adults 60 years of age or older who live in the community, the number of frail adults 60 years of age or older who have received such services, and recommendations for further legislation, including a recommendation regarding extending the pilot program throughout the state.

Section 2. The sum of \$75,000 in nonrecurring revenue is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Elderly Affairs for fiscal year 2007-2008 to implement the provisions of this act.

Section 3. The sum of \$1,350,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund and \$1,650,000 in recurring funds from the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund are appropriated to the Department of Elderly Affairs for the purpose of completing statewide implementation of Aging Resource Centers as provided in s. 430.2053, Florida Statutes.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor June 12, 2007.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 12, 2007.