

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to caregivers for adults; authorizing the Department of Elderly Affairs to create a pilot program to train economically disadvantaged workers of a specified age or older 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 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 to train economically disadvantaged workers 55 years of age or older to act as companions and provide personal assistance to frail adults 60 years of age or older in the community. The department shall use the resources of the Senior Community Service Employment Program to support the pilot program to the greatest extent allowed by federal law. The purposes of the pilot program are to:

(a) Foster the development of training and employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged workers 55 years of age or older;

(b) Encourage the use of economically disadvantaged workers 55 years of age or older in providing community-based care for frail adults 60 years of age or older who live in the

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29 community;

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

33 (d) Act as a direct referral service for the Department of
34 Elderly Affairs.

35 (2) By January 1, 2010, if the pilot program is
36 established, the Department of Elderly Affairs shall submit a
37 report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
38 House of Representatives which includes the status of the
39 implementation of the program, the number of economically
40 disadvantaged workers 55 years of age or older who have been
41 trained to provide community-based care for frail adults 60
42 years of age or older who live in the community, the number of
43 frail adults 60 years of age or older who have received such
44 services, and recommendations for further legislation, including
45 a recommendation regarding extending the pilot program
46 throughout the state.

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.