

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to health care transition programs and  
3 services for adolescents and young adults who have  
4 special health care needs; providing legislative  
5 intent; establishing the Florida Health And Transition  
6 Services (FloridaHATS) program within the Division of  
7 Children's Medical Services Network in the Department  
8 of Health to implement health care transition programs  
9 for adolescents and young adults who have special  
10 health care needs; specifying duties of the division  
11 with respect to the oversight, implementation, and  
12 coordination of the program; requiring that the  
13 program provide technical assistance to communities,  
14 providers, and organizations; requiring the Department  
15 of Health, in partnership with the Agency for Health  
16 Care Administration, to identify options for  
17 addressing the compensation of health care providers  
18 and improving access to adult and specialty health  
19 care for adolescents and young adults who have special  
20 health care needs; requiring the Department of Health  
21 to work with the Office of Insurance Regulation to  
22 explore and recommend effective policies that address  
23 medical management and health care transition services  
24 for adolescents and young adults who have special  
25 health care needs; requiring the Department of Health  
26 to work with community-based pediatric and adult  
27 health care providers to explore and recommend the  
28 development of local health and transition services

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29 programs in each of the regions of the Children's  
30 Medical Services Network; providing requirements for  
31 program structure and design; specifying the services  
32 that may be offered by local health and transition  
33 services programs; requiring that at least one  
34 proposed health and transition services program be  
35 associated with each region of the Children's Medical  
36 Services Network; requiring an evaluation of the  
37 program; providing an effective date.

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

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41 Section 1. Legislative intent; health care transition  
42 programs and services for adolescents and young adults who have  
43 special health care needs.—

44 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide a  
45 strategic and comprehensive approach to the development and  
46 implementation of effective health care transition programs and  
47 services for adolescents and young adults who have special  
48 health care needs. The Health Care Transition Services Task  
49 Force for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities developed a  
50 statewide plan to promote the development of such health care  
51 transition services in accordance with chapter 2008-211, Laws of  
52 Florida, and outlined the plan in the task force's subsequent  
53 report.

54 (2) A program called the Florida Health And Transition  
55 Services (FloridaHATS) is established within the Division of  
56 Children's Medical Services Network, which shall be responsible

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57 for:

58 (a) Overseeing and implementing the national maternal and  
59 child health goals, using existing state plans, in order to  
60 implement effective transition programs for adolescents and  
61 young adults who have special health care needs. As used in this  
62 section, the term "adolescents and young adults who have special  
63 health care needs" means individuals who are 12 through 26 years  
64 of age; who have chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or  
65 emotional conditions; and who require health care or related  
66 services of a type or amount beyond that which is generally  
67 required by adolescents or young adults.

68 (b) Developing a planning and implementation process and  
69 the necessary guides for use by community providers and  
70 organizations in developing coordinated systems of services for  
71 adolescents and young adults who have special health care needs.  
72 The coordinated system of services shall include different  
73 models that accommodate the geographic and cultural diversity in  
74 the state and that are adapted to the local needs of communities  
75 and to local health services delivery systems. Furthermore, the  
76 models shall promote the integration of health care transition  
77 services with transition programs in education, vocational  
78 rehabilitation, and independent living, and shall address the  
79 varying needs of subpopulations, such as students who are  
80 enrolled in postsecondary educational institutions and  
81 individuals in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

82 (c) Developing and disseminating resource guides that  
83 outline the various public and private health care financing  
84 options, including commercial insurance, and the respective

85 health care benefits.

86 (d) Coordinating the program with educational  
87 institutions, including medical centers, to identify and make  
88 available for health care providers existing training programs  
89 regarding the principles, objectives, and methods for the  
90 successful transition of adolescents and young adults who have  
91 special health care needs to adult health care providers.

92 (e) Maintaining and updating the FloridaHATS's website  
93 with web-based materials related to health care transition  
94 services which can be used by adolescents and young adults who  
95 have special health care needs and their families, providers,  
96 and others involved in health care transition.

97 (f) Collecting and disseminating information in specific  
98 clinical areas concerning evidenced-based practices and best  
99 practices for providing health care transition services for  
100 adolescents and young adults who have chronic special health  
101 care needs or disabilities.

102 (g) Providing technical assistance to communities,  
103 providers, and organizations that are involved in the  
104 development and implementation of systems of services for  
105 adolescents and young adults who have special health care needs.

106 (h) Developing and disseminating quality improvement and  
107 evaluation components for health care transition programs. The  
108 quality improvement and evaluation components must include a  
109 common or comparable set of performance measures for all  
110 entities that provide health care transition services for  
111 adolescents and young adults who have special health care needs.

112 (i) Establishing a network of experts in the fields of

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113 pediatric and adolescent medicine, adult medicine, and allied  
114 health to provide technical assistance and recommendations  
115 regarding best practices and policy guidance in health care  
116 transition.

117 (3) The Department of Health shall work in partnership  
118 with the Agency for Health Care Administration to identify  
119 potential waiver or state plan options that address health care  
120 provider compensation strategies, including, but not limited to,  
121 co-management, care plan development and oversight, provision of  
122 a medical home, and use of telehealth technology to improve  
123 access to adult and specialty health care for adolescents and  
124 young adults who have special health care needs.

125 (4) The Department of Health shall work with the Office of  
126 Insurance Regulation to explore and recommend effective policies  
127 that address medical management and health care transition  
128 services that are based on a patient-centered medical home model  
129 for adolescents and young adults who have special health care  
130 needs.

131 (5) The Department of Health shall also work with  
132 community-based pediatric and adult health care providers to  
133 explore and recommend the development of local health and  
134 transition services programs in each of the eight regions of the  
135 Children's Medical Services Network which meet the following  
136 requirements:

137 (a) The proposed program structure and design must be  
138 adapted to the needs of the local community and health services  
139 delivery system; however, the following elements shall be in  
140 place in order to ensure the success of a local health and

141 transition services program:

142 1. A consultative partnership between adult and pediatric  
 143 health care providers in a major medical health care  
 144 organization or an academic medical setting for purposes of the  
 145 transition of adolescents and young adults to adult health care  
 146 services.

147 2. Community-based health care services that are provided  
 148 under agreements with major health care organizations or  
 149 academic medical centers for the purpose of providing  
 150 consultation concerning the management of special health care  
 151 needs.

152 3. Community-based support organizations that can provide  
 153 assistance with services such as supported living and  
 154 employment, health insurance, and support services to maintain  
 155 the young adult in the community.

156 4. A medical home that provides for coordinated and  
 157 multidisciplinary care and focuses on engaging adult health care  
 158 providers in the care and treatment of adolescents or young  
 159 adults.

160 (b) The following services must be offered by the local  
 161 health and transition services program to individuals who are  
 162 served in the local health and transition services program:

163 1. An assessment of health needs, education and vocational  
 164 status and needs, and health insurance status.

165 2. In coordination with the educational system, community-  
 166 based organizations, and the vocational system, a plan for  
 167 transition services, which includes adult health care services,  
 168 educational services, habilitative services, independent living

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169 services, adult employment, and health insurance.

170 3. Disease self-management programs.

171 (c) There shall be at least one proposed transition  
172 program associated with each one of the eight regions of the  
173 Children's Medical Services Network.

174 (d) The local health and transition services program shall  
175 be evaluated by an organization or university that has expertise  
176 and experience in evaluating health care programs. The  
177 evaluation must be formative and cumulative and must include  
178 program process and outcome measures, as well as client  
179 outcomes. The results of the evaluation may be used by the  
180 department to improve and develop other local health and  
181 transition services programs.

182 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.