

**By** the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;  
and Senator Burgess

585-03145-25

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to Hope Florida; creating part IV of  
3       ch. 23, F.S., entitled "Hope Florida"; creating s.  
4       23.41, F.S.; providing a short title; creating s.  
5       23.42, F.S.; providing the goals of Hope Florida;  
6       creating s. 23.43, F.S.; defining terms; creating s.  
7       23.44, F.S.; creating the Hope Florida Office within  
8       the Executive Office of the Governor; requiring the  
9       Governor to appoint the director of the Hope Florida  
10      Office; providing that such director serves at the  
11      pleasure of the Governor; providing duties of the  
12      office; providing eligibility requirements for Hope  
13      Florida participants; specifying that participation in  
14      Hope Florida is voluntary; specifying mechanisms by  
15      which individuals may receive assistance; requiring  
16      the office to designate a state agency to perform  
17      certain functions; creating s. 23.45, F.S.; requiring  
18      that Hope Navigators be embedded in communities for  
19      specified purposes; requiring that care plans include  
20      certain steps and timelines; requiring the Hope  
21      Florida partner network to work to build a network of  
22      partnerships for a specified purpose; requiring  
23      specified state agencies to participate in Hope  
24      Florida at the direction of the Executive Office of  
25      the Governor; authorizing other entities to  
26      participate in Hope Florida at the direction of the  
27      office; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Part IV of chapter 23, Florida Statutes, consisting of ss. 23.41, 23.42, 23.43, 23.44, and 23.45, is created and entitled "Hope Florida."

Section 2. Section 23.41, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

23.41 Short title.—This part may be cited as the "Hope Florida Act."

Section 3. Section 23.42, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

23.42 Hope Florida goals.—The goals of Hope Florida are to:

(1) Streamline access to support, services, and assistance so that residents in need can reach their full potential within their local communities and to holistically coordinate care through Hope Navigators.

(2) Facilitate alignment and coordination of participating state agencies.

(3) Break down traditional silos and establish a seamless network of support systems, managed through one centralized system comprised of private businesses, nonprofit entities, state agencies, and faith-based organizations, to effectively achieve desired outcomes and sustain long-term results including greater self-sufficiency, community integration, and the reduction of the participant's sole reliance on government programs.

Section 4. Section 23.43, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

23.43 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

(1) "Care plan" means a written document that contains

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59 information provided by Hope Florida to its participants for  
60 whom Hope Florida has developed and customized actionable steps  
61 and corresponding timelines to assist the participants in  
62 achieving their immediate, intermediate, and long-term goals.  
63 The care plan must also address barriers by directly connecting  
64 participants to community resources and opportunities.

65 (2) "Hope Florida partner network" means a group of  
66 entities, including state agencies, public-private partnerships,  
67 and nonprofit, private-sector, and faith-based organizations,  
68 which is actively engaged in Hope Florida and which provides  
69 goods or services to directly support the participants' goals  
70 and address identified barriers.

71 (3) "Hope Line" means a statewide toll-free telephone  
72 number that serves as a hotline for Hope Florida inquiries and  
73 referrals for services.

74 (4) "Hope Navigators" means individuals who coordinate care  
75 and assist participants and families seeking services through  
76 Hope Florida.

77 (5) "Office" means the Hope Florida Office within the  
78 Executive Office of the Governor.

79 (6) "Participant" means an individual who voluntarily  
80 participates in Hope Florida.

81 (7) "Participating state agency" means a state agency  
82 participating in Hope Florida at the direction of the Executive  
83 Office of the Governor.

84 Section 5. Section 23.44, Florida Statutes, is created to  
85 read:

86 23.44 Hope Florida Office; eligibility to participate;  
87 duties.-

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88       (1) The Hope Florida Office is created within the Executive  
89 Office of the Governor. The director of the Hope Florida Office  
90 is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

91       (2) The office shall:

92       (a) Establish goals and strategies for Hope Florida.

93       (b) Facilitate coordination and collaboration among  
94 participating state agencies to achieve these goals.

95       (c) Expand the Hope Florida partner network to meet the  
96 needs of participants.

97       (d) Empower and assist residents in need to help identify  
98 and achieve immediate, intermediate, and long-term goals and  
99 remove barriers to their personal goal achievement through the  
100 development and implementation of care plans in partnership with  
101 Hope Navigators.

102       (e) Use Hope Navigators to assist participants in  
103 identifying personal goals, developing individualized plans for  
104 achieving immediate, intermediate, and long-term goals,  
105 identifying and addressing barriers, and actively connecting  
106 participants to community resources and opportunities to achieve  
107 their goals.

108       (f) Use participating state agencies to serve families  
109 holistically in achieving self-sufficiency, maximizing community  
110 integration, and building a prosperous future. Barriers to self-  
111 sufficiency may include the inability to:

112       1. Obtain stable employment;

113       2. Increase wages;

114       3. Obtain the necessary skills for greater independence,  
115 education, or training;

116       4. Meet basic needs; or

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117 5. Find stable housing.

118 (g) Refer participants requiring assistance with employment  
119 or vocational training to CareerSource Florida, Inc., and local  
120 workforce development boards or other entities to prepare,  
121 train, and place the participants in meaningful employment.

122 (3) (a) To participate in Hope Florida, an individual must  
123 be:

124 1. A legal resident of this state.

125 2. A citizen of the United States or a permanent resident  
126 alien of the United States, as determined by the United States  
127 Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

128 3.a. At least 18 years of age;

129 b. If emancipated, at least 16 years of age; or

130 c. If under 18 years of age and not emancipated, authorized  
131 to participate by written consent of his or her parent or  
132 guardian.

133 (b) Participation in Hope Florida is voluntary.

134 (c) Individuals may receive assistance by calling the Hope  
135 Line.

136 (4) The office shall designate a state agency to, at a  
137 minimum:

138 (a) Operate the Hope Line, which must be available, at a  
139 minimum, during business hours Monday through Friday.

140 (b) Develop and maintain a website for individuals to  
141 connect with Hope Florida.

142 (c) Develop and maintain a Hope Florida case management  
143 system that, at a minimum, conducts intake for Hope Florida  
144 inquiries and makes referrals for individuals and families in  
145 need of services.

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146 Section 6. Section 23.45, Florida Statutes, is created to  
147 read:

148 23.45 Hope Navigators; care plans; Hope Florida partner  
149 network; participating state agencies.—

150 (1) (a) Hope Navigators are resources who must be embedded  
151 within communities and serve as catalysts and a single point of  
152 contact for participants. Hope Navigators shall use participant  
153 information to jointly develop and implement care plans and  
154 navigate and actively leverage community-based supports and  
155 opportunities to create a sustainable network of supports to  
156 help participants achieve their goals, overcome barriers, and  
157 realize their full potential.

158 (b) A care plan must, at a minimum, include actionable  
159 steps and corresponding timelines to address immediate,  
160 intermediate, and long-term goals and barriers to achieving such  
161 goals to help participants achieve their personal goals.  
162 Personal goals may include goals related to barriers to self-  
163 sufficiency.

164 (2) The Hope Florida partner network shall work to build a  
165 network of partnerships to sustain the effectiveness of Hope  
166 Florida.

167 (3) (a) State agencies shall participate in Hope Florida at  
168 the direction of the Executive Office of the Governor,  
169 including, but not limited to, the following agencies:

- 170 1. The Department of Children and Families.
- 171 2. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities.
- 172 3. The Department of Juvenile Justice.
- 173 4. The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office.
- 174 5. The Department of Education.

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175       6. The Agency for Health Care Administration.

176       7. The Division of Emergency Management.

177       8. The Department of Veterans' Affairs.

178       9. The Department of Commerce.

179       10. The Department of Elderly Affairs.

180       (b) In order to use government resources more effectively  
181 and efficiently, participating state agencies shall use existing  
182 resources and personnel, to the extent possible, to operate Hope  
183 Florida.

184       (c) Other public-private partners may also participate in  
185 Hope Florida at the direction of the office, including  
186 CareerSource Florida, Inc., and the Florida Commission on  
187 Community Service.

188       Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.