

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 495 Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living

SPONSOR(S): Harrell

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 202

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee		Cherry	Bishop
2) Education Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Education Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

In 2005, the Florida Legislature established the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services Program to provide personal care attendants for eligible persons with severe and chronic disabilities of all kinds. The bill renames the program as the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services and Employment Assistance Program and expands its services to assist disabled adults with securing and maintaining employment.

The bill also clarifies the responsibilities of the Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living, which is tasked with administering the program. In addition, the existing oversight group is reestablished as an advisory and oversight committee with revised membership.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on the state or local governments.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2016.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Florida law establishes and provides a funding source for the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services Program that provides personal care attendants for eligible persons with severe and chronic disabilities of all kinds.¹ The program was established as a pilot in 2002 and made permanent and statewide in 2005.² Currently, there are 16 Centers for Independent Living operating in Florida.³ The most recent data show that the centers provided independent living services to 21,938 people from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014.⁴

Persons eligible to participate in the program must:

- Be at least 18 years of age, a legal resident of this state and significantly and chronically disabled;
- Require a personal care attendant for assistance with or support for at least two activities of daily living such as bathing and dressing and as defined in s. 429.02, F.S.;
- Require a personal care attendant in order to maintain substantial gainful employment; and
- Be able to acquire and direct a personal care attendant.

The Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation (FEFVR) is required to enter into an agreement with the Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL) to administer the program.⁵ FACIL provides training to program participants on hiring and managing a personal care attendant.⁶ FACIL must also, in cooperation with an oversight group, adopt and revise policies and procedures governing the personal care attendant program and training program.

Funding to administer the program are paid from two sources:

- Tax Collection Enforcement Diversion Program; and
- Fees from the Motorcycle Specialty License Plate.⁷

Tax Collection Enforcement Diversion Program

In conjunction with the establishment of the Personal Care Attendant program, the Department of Revenue was directed, in cooperation with FACIL and state attorneys, to select judicial circuits in which to operate a tax collection enforcement diversion program ("tax diversion program") to collect unpaid sales taxes from delinquent business owners.⁸ Fifty percent of the collections from the tax diversion program are deposited into the operating account of the Able Trust to be used to operate the Personal Care Attendant program and to contract with the state attorneys participating in the tax diversion program.⁹

Motorcycle Specialty (Bikers Care) License Plate Fees

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) offers a specialty license plate to any owner or lessee of a motorcycle who chooses to pay the additional cost.¹⁰ The DHSMV collects an annual use fee of \$20 from the sale of each motorcycle specialty license plate and distributes the fees

¹ Section 413.402, F.S.

² Chapters Chapter 2002-286 and 2005-172, L.O.F.

³ See http://rehabworks.org/indep_living.shtml (last visited on November 23, 2015).

⁴ See E-mail from Government Relations Office, Florida Department of Education (November 24, 2015) (on file with the House Education Committee).

⁵ Section 413.402, F.S.

⁶ *Id.* 413.402(2)(a), F.S.

⁷ Sections 413.4021(1) and 320.08068(4)(d), F.S.

⁸ Section 413.4021, F.S.

⁹ Section 413.4021(1), F.S. The contract amount for each state attorney cannot exceed \$50,000.

¹⁰ Section 320.08068(2), F.S.

to the Able Trust. The Able Trust is permitted to retain a maximum of 10 percent of the funds for administrative costs and distribute the remaining funds as follows:

- Twenty percent to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program Trust Fund;
- Twenty percent to Prevent Blindness Florida;
- Twenty percent to the Blind Services Foundation of Florida;
- Twenty percent to the Able Trust to support the Personal Care Attendant program; and
- Twenty percent to the Florida Association for Centers for Independent Living.¹¹

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill renames the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services Program as the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services and Employment Assistance Program. In addition to the provision of personal care attendants currently being offered to eligible participants, the bill authorizes other support and services necessary to maintain competitive employment or self-employment to be made available to eligible persons in the program.

The bill defines competitive employment as public or private sector employment in which:

- The employee earns wages and benefits that are commensurate with his or her qualifications;
- The wages are comparable to persons with similar jobs in that industry or profession; and
- The employment allows the employee to work in comparable conditions to those experienced by the general workforce in that industry or profession.

FACIL must provide training to program participants on the hiring and managing of a personal care attendant and other skills needed to effectively access and manage the support and services provided in the program. FACIL must also provide administrative services to ensure the financial integrity of the program and administrative support to the revised Advisory and Oversight Committee.

The bill changes the portion of funding available to FACIL to administer the program. Current law provides that FACIL receive 12 percent of the funds paid to or on behalf of participants in the program. The bill provides that FACIL will be reimbursed up to 12 percent of the total funds deposited into the program from the FEFVR account. The reimbursement covers costs associated with program administration and oversight. FACIL's annual operating budget must be approved by the Oversight Committee.

The bill renames the existing oversight group as the Advisory and Oversight Committee and changes its membership. The representative of the Medicaid program within the Agency for Health Care Administration is removed and the representative of the Able Trust is changed to an ex officio member. The bill adds a member of the Florida Independent Living Council appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, a financial management professional appointed by the Governor, and an ex-officio member from the FACIL. The appointing authority for the program participant is changed to the President of the Senate. The Advisory and Oversight Committee is tasked with providing program oversight, approving the program's operating budget, and advising FACIL on policies and procedures.

In addition, the bill increases the amount available to contract with state attorneys participating in the tax collection enforcement diversion program from \$50,000 to not more than \$75,000 per state attorney. The bill also changes the name of the entity receiving 20 percent of the funds distributed to the Able Trust from the sale of specialty motorcycle licenses to the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services and Employment Assistance Program.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 413.402, F.S., requiring that a specified agreement be maintained; renaming the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services Program as the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services and Employment Assistance Program; requiring the program to provide additional support and services; requiring the association, in consultation with

¹¹ Section 320.08069(4), F.S.
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the Advisory and Oversight Committee, to adopt and revise certain policies and procedures and to provide technical assistance and support under certain circumstances; requiring the program to reimburse the Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living for certain costs approved by the oversight committee; revising membership of the committee; and renaming the committee as the Advisory and Oversight Committee.

Section 2. Amends s. 413.4021, F.S., revising the maximum amount of specified funds for each state attorney which may be used to administer the personal attendant and employment assistance program.

Section 3. Amends s. 320.08068, F.S., making technical and conforming changes.

Section 4. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill expands the scope of services to disabled persons to include employment assistance to eligible program participants. The potential savings from increased employment of individuals with significant and chronic disabilities may be seen in reduced long-term care costs.

The bill also increases the amount of funds available to contract with the state attorneys' offices participating in the tax collection enforcement diversion program from \$50,000 to not more than \$75,000 for each office.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

Not applicable.