

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 415 Pregnancy and Parenting Resources Website

SPONSOR(S): Jacques and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 436

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee	17 Y, 0 N	Clenord	McElroy
2) Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Health & Human Services Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The transition to parenthood is an overwhelming life event with more than half of parents reporting feeling inadequately prepared. Florida provides numerous programs and resources to expectant and new families to assist with this transition. The Department of Health (DOH), Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) provide information related to a variety of pregnancy and parenting resources on their respective websites. However, unlike other states such as South Dakota, Texas, and North Dakota, Florida does not currently have a comprehensive state website containing information related to available public and private pregnancy and parenting resources.

HB 415 requires DOH, in partnership with DCF and AHCA, to contract with a third-party to create a website that provides information and links to public and private pregnancy and parenting resources. The website must include, at a minimum, information on resources related to:

- Educational materials on pregnancy and parenting;
- Maternal health services;
- Prenatal and postnatal services;
- Educational and mentorship programs for fathers;
- Social services;
- Financial assistance;
- Adoption services.

The bill also requires DOH, DCF, and AHCA to include a clear and conspicuous link to the website on their individual websites. The pregnancy and parenting resources website must be functional by January 1, 2025.

The bill has a significant, negative fiscal impact on DOH and no fiscal impact on local governments.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2024.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

In 2022, there were 224,611 recorded births in Florida.¹ The transition to parenthood is an overwhelming life event with more than half of parents' report feeling inadequately prepared.² Florida provides a variety of resources, private and public, that can help expectant families and new parents to assist with this transition. The Department of Health (DOH), Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) provide information related to pregnancy and parenting resources on their respective websites. Florida does not currently have a comprehensive state website containing information related to available public and private pregnancy and parenting resources.

Department of Health

DOH is the designated agency for administering maternal and child health services.³ DOH provides the following links related to pregnancy and parenting resources on its website:⁴

- After Pregnancy
- Community Involvement
- Count the Kicks
- Emergency Preparedness for Pregnant Women
- Family Health Line
- Florida Birth Defects Registry
- Florida Pregnancy Support Services Program
- Flu and Pregnancy
- Healthy Start
- High Blood Pressure and Preeclampsia
- Perinatal Hepatitis B
- Preconception Health
- Pregnancy and Diabetes
- Prenatal Care
- Safe Haven for Newborns
- Text4baby
- Tobacco Use in Pregnancy
- Umbilical Cord Blood Banking
- Zika Virus

DOH does not provide an explanation for the content of each of these topics. Instead, a user must explore each one of these items and determine if it contains the information they are seeking. This reduces ease of use and may potentially create confusion for individuals who are not familiar with pregnancy and parenting resources and programs. Additionally, the public and private resources identified in the website are generally limited to the types of services offered by DOH.

Department of Children and Families

¹ FL Health Charts, *Birth Counts Query System*, https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY_New/Birth/Count (last visited January 9, 2024).

² National Library of Medicine, *Preparing Parents for Parenthood: Protocol for a randomized controlled Trial of a Preventative Parenting Intervention for Expectant Parents*, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6064107/> (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

³ S. 383.011 (1), F.S.

⁴ Florida Department of Health, *Pregnancy*, <https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/womens-health/pregnancy/index.html> (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

DCF's mission is to promote strong and economically self-sufficient families and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency.⁵ DCF's website provides information on resources available to pregnant women and families related to food and cash assistance, Medicaid eligibility determination and resources for people experiencing homelessness, among other programs. The public and private resources identified in the website are generally limited to the types of services offered by DCF.

Agency for Health Care Administration

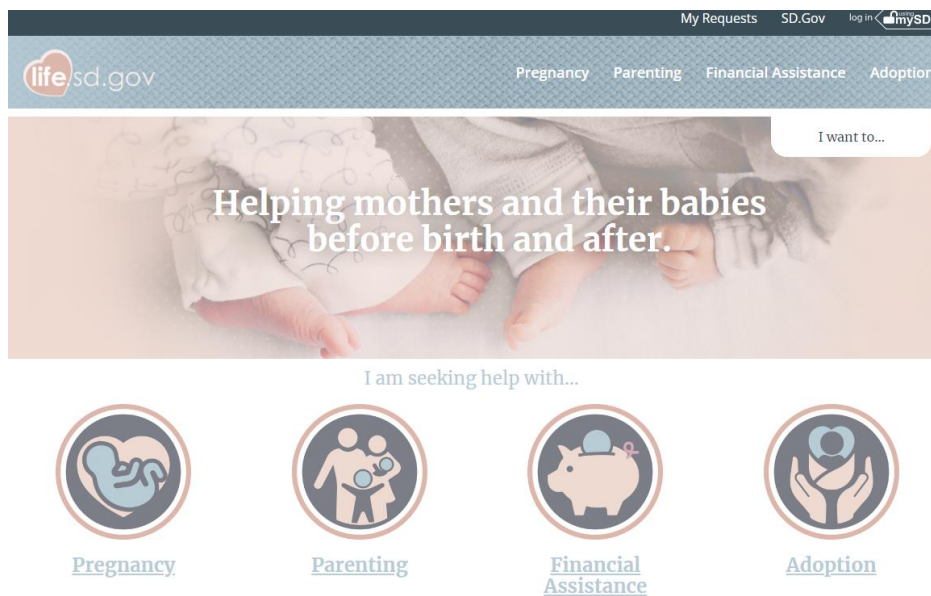
AHCA is the chief health policy and planning entity for the state and is responsible for implementation of the Medicaid program.⁶ AHCA's website provides resources on the Medicaid program, including reproductive services available to Medicaid recipients. This includes a list of the procedures Medicaid reimburses such as prenatal visits, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, counseling, surgical excision during pregnancy and cesarean section, among others.⁷ Similar to the DOH and DCF websites, the information provided on the AHCA website is limited to the types of services and programs that AHCA offers.

States with Comprehensive Pregnancy and Parenting Resource Websites

Several states have comprehensive pregnancy and parenting resource websites. For example, South Dakota, Texas, and North Dakota have comprehensive pregnancy and parenting resources websites which vary slightly and include:

- South Dakota - pregnancy, parenting, financial assistance, and adoption.⁸
- Texas - pregnancy support, parenting and caregiving, health care and financial assistance, adoption, and services available through Texas state agencies.⁹
- North Dakota - parenting, pregnancy, finance, behavioral health, programs, and locations.¹⁰

Below is an example of South Dakota's comprehensive website.



⁵ S. 20.19 (1), F.S.

⁶ S. 20.42 (3), F.S.

⁷ Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, *Reproductive Services*, [Reproductive Services \(myflorida.com\)](https://myflorida.com) (last visited Jan. 8, 2024).

⁸ SD Life, *Helping Mothers and their Babies Before Birth and After*, [SD Life - SD Life](https://www.sd.gov) (last visited Jan. 8, 2024).

⁹ Family Resources, *Resources for Families in all Stages of Life*, <https://www.familyresources.texas.gov/> (last visited Jan. 8, 2024)

¹⁰ Life ND, *Welcome to North Dakota's Pregnancy and Parenting Web site*, <https://www.life.nd.gov/> (last visited Jan. 8, 2024).

Comprehensive websites make it easier for expectant and new families to obtain information on all available resources.

Effect of the Bill

HB 415 requires DOH, in partnership with DCF and AHCA, to contract with a third-party to create a comprehensive website that provides information and links to public and private pregnancy and parenting resources. The website must include, at a minimum, information on resources related to:

- Educational materials on pregnancy and parenting;
- Maternal health services;
- Prenatal and postnatal services;
- Educational and mentorship programs for fathers;
- Social services;
- Financial assistance;
- Adoption services.

DOH, DCF, and AHCA must include a clear and conspicuous link to the website on their individual websites. The pregnancy and parenting resources website must be functional by January 1, 2025.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2024.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Creates s. 383.0131, F.S., relating to pregnancy and parenting resources website.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2024.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

DOH estimates the total cost to comply with the bill is \$466,200 (\$97,000 recurring, \$369,200 nonrecurring).¹¹

Service	Cost
URL Domain Name	\$300 Recurring
Advance Web Designer	\$87,300 Recurring / \$174,600 Non-Recurring
Project Management	\$194,000 Non-Recurring
IT Support	\$10,000 Recurring

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

¹¹ Correspondence from DOH to Health Care Regulation Subcommittee staff on file with the Health Care Regulation Subcommittee.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. The bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill does not appear to create a need for rule-making or rule-making authority

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES