

By Senator Turner

36-1304-98

See HB 945

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to environmental equity;  
 3           creating s. 760.854, F.S.; creating the Center  
 4           for Environmental Equity and Justice; providing  
 5           purpose of the center; requiring each state  
 6           agency to include an environmental justice  
 7           element in its agency functional plan;  
 8           requiring the establishment of specified  
 9           tracking systems and registries by the  
 10          Department of Health and county health  
 11          departments for the purpose of providing data  
 12          to the Center for Environmental Equity and  
 13          Justice; amending s. 382.008, F.S.; requiring  
 14          specified additional information to be included  
 15          on certain certificates of death for the  
 16          purpose of providing data to the Center for  
 17          Environmental Equity and Justice; amending s.  
 18          120.525, F.S.; requiring state agencies to  
 19          provide notice of certain proposed agency  
 20          action via specified media; providing effective  
 21          dates.

22  
 23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

24  
 25           Section 1. Section 760.854, Florida Statutes, is  
 26           created to read:

27           760.854 Center for Environmental Equity and Justice.--

28           (1) There is hereby established the Center for  
 29           Environmental Equity and Justice.

30           (2) The purpose of the center is to conduct and  
 31           facilitate research, develop policies, and engage in

1 education, training, and community outreach with respect to  
2 environmental equity and justice issues.

3 (3) The Center for Environmental Equity and Justice  
4 shall be established at an historically black college or  
5 university.

6 (4) The Center for Environmental Equity and Justice  
7 shall sponsor students to serve as interns at the epidemiology  
8 branch of the Department of Health.

9 Section 2. Each state agency shall include an  
10 environmental justice element in its agency functional plan  
11 that parallels the element required of federal agencies by  
12 Executive Order 12898 on environmental equity.

13 Section 3. For the purpose of aiding in the  
14 compilation of data to be used in the conduct of research by  
15 the Center for Environmental Equity and Justice, as created by  
16 this act, a registry and tracking system shall be established  
17 by the Department of Health and each county health department  
18 which will monitor, and make reports to the center regarding,  
19 instances of adverse or negative health effects among children  
20 and adults, and instances of birth defects in newborn  
21 children, which may have occurred as the result of exposure to  
22 environmental hazards within the state.

23 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 382.008, Florida  
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 382.008 Death and fetal death registration.--

26 (1) A certificate for each death and fetal death that  
27 ~~which~~ occurs in this state shall be filed on a form prescribed  
28 by the department with the local registrar of the district in  
29 which the death occurred within 5 days after such death and  
30 prior to final disposition of the dead body or fetus, and  
31 shall be registered by such registrar if it has been completed

1 and filed in accordance with this chapter or adopted rules.  
2 In addition, each certificate of death or fetal death:  
3 (a) If requested by the informant, shall include  
4 aliases or "also known as" (AKA) names of a decedent in  
5 addition to the decedent's name of record. Aliases shall be  
6 entered on the face of the death certificate in the space  
7 provided for name if there is sufficient space. If there is  
8 not sufficient space, aliases may be recorded on the back of  
9 the certificate and shall be considered part of the official  
10 record of death;  
11 (b) If the place of death is unknown, shall be  
12 registered in the registration district in which the dead body  
13 or fetus is found within 5 days after such occurrence; ~~and~~  
14 (c) If death occurs in a moving conveyance, shall be  
15 registered in the registration district in which the dead body  
16 was first removed from such conveyance;  
17 (d) For the purpose of aiding in the compilation of  
18 data to be used in the conduct of research by the Center for  
19 Environmental Equity and Justice, as created by s. 760.854,  
20 the certificate of death for an adult must include:  
21 1. The length of time the individual was employed at  
22 the occupation listed on the certificate.  
23 2. The length of time the individual resided at the  
24 address listed on the certificate.  
25 3. The length of time the individual was a Florida  
26 resident.  
27 Section 5. Effective July 1, 1998, subsection (4) is  
28 added to section 120.525, Florida Statutes, to read:  
29 120.525 Meetings, hearings, and workshops.--  
30 (4) Effective July 1, 1997, each agency shall provide  
31 notice required by this chapter in ethnic newspapers, local

1 community bulletins, and televised public service  
2 announcements targeting the population affected by the  
3 proposed agency action.

4 Section 6. Except as otherwise expressly provided in  
5 this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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8 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

9  
10 Creates the Center for Environmental Equity and Justice  
11 for the purpose of facilitating research, developing  
12 policies, and engaging in education, training, and  
community outreach with respect to environmental justice  
and equity issues.

13 Requires each state agency to include an environmental  
14 justice element in its agency functional plan.

15 Requires the Department of Health and each county health  
16 department to establish a registry and tracking system  
17 which will provide data to the Center for Environmental  
Equity and Justice regarding instances of adverse or  
18 negative health effects among children and adults, and  
instances of birth defects in newborn children, which may  
19 have occurred as the result of exposure to environmental  
hazards within the state.

20 Requires specified additional information to be included  
21 on adult certificates of death for the purpose of  
providing data to the center.

22  
23 Requires state agencies to provide notice of certain  
proposed agency action via specified media.