By Senator Burt

16-1231-98

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to human immunodeficiency virus testing; amending s. 381.004, F.S.; providing for disclosure of HIV test results to the patient's health care providers; requiring HIV testing of certain health care facility patients; providing that health care providers receiving HIV test results must maintain their confidentiality; amending s. 395.3025, F.S.; providing for inclusion of results of required HIV tests in patient records; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 381.004, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.004 Testing for human immunodeficiency virus.--

(1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT. -- The Legislature finds that the use of tests designed to reveal a condition indicative of human immunodeficiency virus infection can be a valuable tool in protecting the public health. The Legislature finds that despite existing laws, regulations, and professional standards which require or promote the informed, voluntary, and confidential use of tests designed to reveal human immunodeficiency virus infection, many members of the public are deterred from seeking such testing because they misunderstand the nature of the test or fear that test results will be disclosed without their consent. The Legislature finds that the public health will be served by facilitating

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informed, voluntary, and confidential use of tests designed to detect human immunodeficiency virus infection.

- (2) DEFINITIONS. -- As used in this section:
- (a) "HIV test" means a test ordered after July 6, 1988, to determine the presence of the antibody or antigen to human immunodeficiency virus or the presence of human immunodeficiency virus infection.
- (b) "HIV test result" means a laboratory report of a human immunodeficiency virus test result entered into a medical record on or after July 6, 1988, or any report or notation in a medical record of a laboratory report of a human immunodeficiency virus test. As used in this section, the term "HIV test result" does not include test results reported to a health care provider by a patient.
 - (c) "Significant exposure" means:
- Exposure to blood or body fluids through needlestick, instruments, or sharps;
- 2. Exposure of mucous membranes to visible blood or body fluids, to which universal precautions apply according to the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including, without limitations, the following body fluids:
 - a. Blood.
 - b. Semen.
 - c. Vaginal secretions.
- d. Cerebro-spinal fluid (CSF).
 - e. Synovial fluid.
 - f. Pleural fluid.
 - g. Peritoneal fluid.
 - h. Pericardial fluid.
 - i. Amniotic fluid.

- j. Laboratory specimens that contain HIV (e.g., suspensions of concentrated virus); or
- 3. Exposure of skin to visible blood or body fluids, especially when the exposed skin is chapped, abraded, or afflicted with dermatitis or the contact is prolonged or involving an extensive area.
- (d) "Test subject" or "subject of the test" means the person upon whom an HIV test is performed, or the person who has legal authority to make health care decisions for the test subject.
- (3) HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TESTING; INFORMED CONSENT; RESULTS; COUNSELING; CONFIDENTIALITY.--
- designed to identify the human immunodeficiency virus, or its antigen or antibody, without first obtaining the informed consent of the person upon whom the test is being performed, except as specified in paragraph (i). Informed consent shall be preceded by an explanation of the right to confidential treatment of information identifying the subject of the test and the results of the test to the extent provided by law. Consent need not be in writing provided there is documentation in the medical record that the test has been explained and the consent has been obtained.
- (b) Except as provided in paragraph (i), informed consent must be obtained from a legal guardian or other person authorized by law when the person:
- 1. Is not competent or is otherwise unable to make an informed judgment; or
- 2. Has not reached the age of majority, except as provided in s. 384.30.

- shall order a test without making available to the person tested, prior to the test, information regarding measures for the prevention of, exposure to, and transmission of human immunodeficiency virus. At the time an HIV test is ordered, the person ordering the test shall schedule a return visit with the test subject for the purpose of disclosing the test results and conducting posttest counseling as described in paragraph (e).
- (d) No test result shall be determined as positive, and no positive test result shall be revealed to any person, without corroborating or confirmatory tests being conducted. However, preliminary test results may be released to licensed physicians or the medical personnel subject to the significant exposure for purposes of subparagraphs (i)10. and 11. Except as provided in this section, test results are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).
- (e) Except as otherwise provided, no test result shall be revealed to the person upon whom the test was performed without affording that person the immediate opportunity for individual, face-to-face counseling about:
 - 1. The meaning of the test results;
 - 2. The possible need for additional testing;
- 3. Measures for the prevention of the transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus infection;
- 4. The availability in the geographic area of any appropriate health care services, including mental health care, and appropriate social and support services;
- 5. The benefits of locating and counseling any individual by whom the infected individual may have been exposed to the human immunodeficiency virus infection and any

individual whom the infected individual may have exposed to such human immunodeficiency virus infection; and

6. The availability, if any, of the services of public health authorities with respect to locating and counseling any individual described in subparagraph 5.

Telephonic posttest counseling shall be permitted when reporting the HIV test results of a home access HIV test that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and analyzed by a laboratory certified under the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 or licensed under part I of chapter 483.

- (f) Except as provided in this section, the identity of any person upon whom a test has been performed and test results are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). No person who has obtained or has knowledge of a test result pursuant to this section may disclose or be compelled to disclose the identity of any person upon whom a test is performed, or the results of such a test in a manner which permits identification of the subject of the test, except to the following persons:
- 1. The subject of the test or the subject's legally authorized representative.
- 2. Any person, including third-party payors, designated in a legally effective release of the test results executed prior to or after the test by the subject of the test or the subject's legally authorized representative. The test subject may in writing authorize the disclosure of the test subject's HIV test results to third party payors, who need not be specifically identified, and to other persons to whom the test subject subsequently issues a general release of medical

information. A general release without such prior written authorization is not sufficient to release HIV test results.

- 3. An authorized agent or employee of a health facility or health care provider if the health facility or health care provider itself is authorized to obtain the test results, the agent or employee participates in the administration or provision of patient care or handles or processes specimens of body fluids or tissues, and the agent or employee has a need to know such information. The department shall adopt a rule defining which persons have a need to know pursuant to this subparagraph.
- 4. Health care providers consulting between themselves or with health care facilities to determine diagnosis and treatment. For purposes of this subparagraph, health care providers shall include licensed health care professionals employed by or associated with state, county, or municipal detention facilities when such health care professionals are acting exclusively for the purpose of providing diagnoses or treatment of persons in the custody of such facilities.
- 5. The department, in accordance with rules for reporting and controlling the spread of disease, as otherwise provided by state law.
- 6. A health facility or health care provider which procures, processes, distributes, or uses:
- a. A human body part from a deceased person, with respect to medical information regarding that person; or
- b. Semen provided prior to July 6, 1988, for the purpose of artificial insemination.
- 7. Health facility staff committees, for the purposes of conducting program monitoring, program evaluation, or service reviews pursuant to chapters 395 and 766.

- 8. Authorized medical or epidemiological researchers who may not further disclose any identifying characteristics or information.
- 9. A person allowed access by a court order which is issued in compliance with the following provisions:
- a. No court of this state shall issue such order unless the court finds that the person seeking the test results has demonstrated a compelling need for the test results which cannot be accommodated by other means. In assessing compelling need, the court shall weigh the need for disclosure against the privacy interest of the test subject and the public interest which may be disserved by disclosure which deters blood, organ, and semen donation and future human immunodeficiency virus-related testing or which may lead to discrimination. This paragraph shall not apply to blood bank donor records.
- b. Pleadings pertaining to disclosure of test results shall substitute a pseudonym for the true name of the subject of the test. The disclosure to the parties of the subject's true name shall be communicated confidentially in documents not filed with the court.
- c. Before granting any such order, the court shall provide the individual whose test result is in question with notice and a reasonable opportunity to participate in the proceedings if he or she is not already a party.
- d. Court proceedings as to disclosure of test results shall be conducted in camera, unless the subject of the test agrees to a hearing in open court or unless the court determines that a public hearing is necessary to the public interest and the proper administration of justice.

- e. Upon the issuance of an order to disclose test
 results, the court shall impose appropriate safeguards against
 unauthorized disclosure which shall specify the persons who
 may have access to the information, the purposes for which the
 information shall be used, and appropriate prohibitions on
 future disclosure.
 - 10. A person allowed access by order of a judge of compensation claims of the Division of Workers' Compensation of the Department of Labor and Employment Security. A judge of compensation claims shall not issue such order unless he or she finds that the person seeking the test results has demonstrated a compelling need for the test results which cannot be accommodated by other means.
 - 11. Those employees of the department or of child-placing or child-caring agencies or of family foster homes, licensed pursuant to s. 409.175, who are directly involved in the placement, care, control, or custody of such test subject and who have a need to know such information; adoptive parents of such test subject; or any adult custodian, any adult relative, or any person responsible for the child's welfare, if the test subject was not tested under subparagraph (b)2. and if a reasonable attempt has been made to locate and inform the legal guardian of a test result. The department shall adopt a rule to implement this subparagraph.
 - 12. Medical personnel who have been subject to a significant exposure during the course of medical practice or in the performance of professional duties, or individuals who are the subject of the significant exposure as provided in subparagraphs (i)10. and 11.
 - 13. Health care providers involved in the patient's care.

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- (g) Except as provided in this section, the identity of a person upon whom a test has been performed is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). No person to whom the results of a test have been disclosed may disclose the test results to another person except as authorized by this subsection and by ss. 951.27 and 960.003. Whenever disclosure is made pursuant to this subsection, it shall be accompanied by a statement in writing which includes the following or substantially similar language: "This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by state law. prohibits you from making any further disclosure of such information without the specific written consent of the person to whom such information pertains, or as otherwise permitted by state law. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this purpose." An oral disclosure shall be accompanied by oral notice and followed by a written notice within 10 days, except that this notice shall not be required for disclosures made pursuant to subparagraphs (f)3. and 4.
- (h) Human immunodeficiency virus test results contained in the medical records of a hospital licensed under chapter 395 may be released in accordance with s. 395.3025 without being subject to the requirements of subparagraph (f)2., subparagraph (f)9., or paragraph (g); provided the hospital has obtained written informed consent for the HIV test in accordance with provisions of this section.
- (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), informed consent is not required:

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- 1. When testing for sexually transmissible diseases is required by state or federal law, or by rule including the following situations:
- a. HIV testing pursuant to s. 796.08 of persons convicted of prostitution or of procuring another to commit prostitution.
- b. Testing for HIV by a medical examiner in accordance with s. 406.11.
- 2. Those exceptions provided for blood, plasma, organs, skin, semen, or other human tissue pursuant to s. 381.0041.
- 3. For the performance of an HIV-related test by licensed medical personnel in bona fide medical emergencies when the test results are necessary for medical diagnostic purposes to provide appropriate emergency care or treatment to the person being tested and the patient is unable to consent, as supported by documentation in the medical record. Posttest counseling is required.
- 4. For the performance of an HIV-related test by licensed medical personnel for medical diagnosis of acute illness where, in the opinion of the attending physician, obtaining informed consent would be detrimental to the patient, as supported by documentation in the medical record, and the test results are necessary for medical diagnostic purposes to provide appropriate care or treatment to the person being tested. Posttest counseling is required if it would not be detrimental to the patient. This subparagraph does not authorize the routine testing of patients for HIV infection without informed consent.
- 5. When HIV testing is performed as part of an autopsy for which consent was obtained pursuant to s. 872.04.

- 6. For the performance of an HIV test upon a defendant pursuant to the victim's request in a prosecution for any type of sexual battery where a blood sample is taken from the defendant voluntarily, pursuant to court order for any purpose, or pursuant to the provisions of s. 775.0877, s. 951.27, or s. 960.003; however, the results of any HIV test performed shall be disclosed solely to the victim and the defendant, except as provided in ss. 775.0877, 951.27, and 960.003.
 - 7. When an HIV test is mandated by court order.
- 8. For epidemiological research pursuant to s. 381.0032, for research consistent with institutional review boards created by 45 C.F.R. part 46, or for the performance of an HIV-related test for the purpose of research, if the testing is performed in a manner by which the identity of the test subject is not known and may not be retrieved by the researcher.
- 9. When human tissue is collected lawfully without the consent of the donor for corneal removal as authorized by s. 732.9185 or enucleation of the eyes as authorized by s. 732.919.
- 10. For the performance of an HIV test upon an individual who comes into contact with medical personnel in such a way that a significant exposure has occurred during the course of employment or within the scope of practice and where a blood sample is taken from that individual voluntarily by medical personnel for other purposes. "Medical personnel" includes a licensed or certified health care professional; an employee of a health care professional, health care facility, or blood bank; and a paramedic or emergency medical technician as defined in s. 401.23.

- a. Prior to performance of an HIV test on a voluntarily obtained blood sample, the individual from whom the blood was obtained shall be requested to consent to the performance of the test and to the release of the results. The individual's refusal to consent and all information concerning the performance of an HIV test and any HIV test result shall be documented only in the medical personnel's record unless the individual gives written consent to entering this information on the individual's medical record.
- b. Reasonable attempts to locate the individual and to obtain consent shall be made and all attempts must be documented. If the individual cannot be found, an HIV test may be conducted on the available blood sample. If the individual does not voluntarily consent to the performance of an HIV test, the individual shall be informed that an HIV test will be performed, and counseling shall be furnished as provided in this section. However, HIV testing shall be conducted only after a licensed physician documents, in the medical record of the medical personnel, that there has been a significant exposure and that, in the physician's medical judgment, the information is medically necessary to determine the course of treatment for the medical personnel.
- c. Costs of any HIV test of a blood sample performed with or without the consent of the individual, as provided in this subparagraph, shall be borne by the medical personnel or the employer of the medical personnel. However, costs of testing or treatment not directly related to the initial HIV tests or costs of subsequent testing or treatment shall not be borne by the medical personnel or the employer of the medical personnel.

- d. In order to utilize the provisions of this subparagraph, the medical personnel must either be tested for HIV pursuant to this section or provide the results of an HIV test taken within 6 months prior to the significant exposure if such test results are negative.
- e. A person who receives the results of an HIV test pursuant to this subparagraph shall maintain the confidentiality of the information received and of the persons tested. Such confidential information is exempt from s. 119.07(1).
- 11. For the performance of an HIV test upon an individual who comes into contact with medical personnel in such a way that a significant exposure has occurred during the course of employment or within the scope of practice of the medical personnel while the medical personnel provides emergency medical treatment to the individual; or who comes into contact with nonmedical personnel in such a way that a significant exposure has occurred while the nonmedical personnel provides emergency medical assistance during a medical emergency. For the purposes of this subparagraph, a medical emergency means an emergency medical condition outside of a hospital or health care facility that provides physician care. The test may be performed only during the course of treatment for the medical emergency.
- a. An individual who is capable of providing consent shall be requested to consent to an HIV test prior to the testing. The individual's refusal to consent, and all information concerning the performance of an HIV test and its result, shall be documented only in the medical personnel's record unless the individual gives written consent to entering this information on the individual's medical record.

nonmedical personnel.

b. HIV testing shall be conducted only after a

medical personnel or nonmedical personnel, that there has been a significant exposure and that, in the physician's medical

judgment, the information is medically necessary to determine

consent of the individual, as provided in this subparagraph,

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subparagraph, the medical personnel or nonmedical personnel

provide the results of an HIV test taken within 6 months prior

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confidentiality of the information received and of the persons

medically indicated by licensed medical personnel for medical

diagnosis of a hospitalized infant as necessary to provide

appropriate care and treatment of the infant when, after a

reasonable attempt, a parent cannot be contacted to provide

consent. The medical records of the infant shall reflect the

tested. Such confidential information is exempt from s.

e. A person who receives the results of an HIV test

For the performance of an HIV-related test

shall be tested for HIV pursuant to this section or shall

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medical personnel or nonmedical personnel. However, costs of testing or treatment not directly related to the initial HIV

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personnel or nonmedical personnel.

reason consent of the parent was not initially obtained. Test results and posttest counseling shall be provided to the parent when the parent is located.

- entering a health care facility licensed under chapter 395 for treatment involving an invasive procedure, whether the treatment is performed in an emergency room or on an outpatient or inpatient basis. Each such patient shall be tested for HIV, and the test results shall be made available to the health care providers involved in the patient's care, notwithstanding any other provision of this section. Each person who receives the results of an HIV test performed under this subparagraph shall maintain the confidentiality of the information and the identity of the person tested. Such confidential information is exempt from s. 119.07(1).
- (4) COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT NETWORK OF VOLUNTARY HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TESTING PROGRAMS.--
- (a) The Department of Health shall establish a network of voluntary human immunodeficiency virus testing programs in every county in the state. These programs shall be conducted in each county health department established under the provisions of part I of chapter 154. Additional programs may be contracted to other private providers to the extent that finances permit and local circumstances dictate.
- (b) Each county health department shall have the ability to provide counseling and testing for human immunodeficiency virus to each patient who receives services and shall offer such testing on a voluntary basis to each patient who presents himself or herself for services in a public health program designated by the State Health Officer by rule.

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- (c) Each county health department shall provide a program of counseling and testing for human immunodeficiency virus infection, on both an anonymous and confidential basis. Counseling provided to a patient tested on both an anonymous and confidential basis shall include informing the patient of the availability of partner-notification services, the benefits of such services, and the confidentiality protections available as part of such services. The Department of Health or its designated agent shall continue to provide for anonymous testing through an alternative testing site program with sites throughout all areas of the state. Each county health department shall maintain a list of anonymous testing sites. The list shall include the locations, phone numbers, and hours of operation of the sites and shall be disseminated to all persons and programs offering human immunodeficiency virus testing within the service area of the county health department, including physicians licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459. Except as provided in this section, the identity of a person upon whom a test has been performed and test results are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).
- (d) The result of a serologic test conducted under the auspices of the Department of Health shall not be used to determine if a person may be insured for disability, health, or life insurance or to screen or determine suitability for, or to discharge a person from, employment. Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (5) HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TESTING REQUIREMENTS; REGISTRATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; EXEMPTIONS FROM

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REGISTRATION. -- No county health department and no other person in this state shall conduct or hold themselves out to the public as conducting a testing program for acquired immune deficiency syndrome, acquired immune deficiency syndrome related complex, or human immunodeficiency virus status without first registering with the Department of Health, complying with all other applicable provisions of state law, and meeting the following requirements:

- (a) The program must be directed by a person with a minimum number of contact hours of experience in the counseling of persons with acquired immune deficiency syndrome, acquired immune deficiency syndrome related complex, or human immunodeficiency virus infection, as established by the Department of Health by rule.
- (b) The program must have all medical care supervised by a physician licensed under the provisions of chapter 458 or chapter 459.
- (c) The program shall have all laboratory procedures performed in a laboratory licensed under the provisions of chapter 483.
- (d) The program must meet all the informed consent criteria contained in subsection (3).
- (e) The program must provide pretest counseling on the meaning of a test for human immunodeficiency virus, including medical indications for the test; the possibility of false positive or false negative results; the potential need for confirmatory testing; the potential social, medical, and economic consequences of a positive test result; and the need to eliminate high-risk behavior.
- (f) The program must provide supplemental corroborative testing on all positive test results before the

results of any positive test are provided to the patient. Except as provided in this section, the identity of any person upon whom a test has been performed and test results are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

- (g) The program must provide face-to-face posttest counseling on the meaning of the test results; the possible need for additional testing; the social, medical, and economic consequences of a positive test result; and the need to eliminate behavior which might spread the disease to others.
- (h) Each person providing posttest counseling to a patient with a positive test result shall receive specialized training, to be specified by rule of the department, about the special needs of persons with positive results, including recognition of possible suicidal behavior, and shall refer the patient for further health and social services as appropriate.
- (i) When services are provided for a charge during pretest counseling, testing, supplemental testing, and posttest counseling, the program must provide a complete list of all such charges to the patient and the Department of Health.
- (j) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a facility licensed under chapter 483 or a person licensed under the provisions of chapter 457, chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, chapter 466, or chapter 467 to register with the Department of Health if he or she does not advertise or hold himself or herself out to the public as conducting testing programs for human immunodeficiency virus infection or specializing in such testing.
 - (6) PENALTIES. --

- (a) Any violation of this section by a facility or licensed health care provider shall be a ground for disciplinary action contained in the facility's or professional's respective licensing chapter.
- (b) Any person who violates the confidentiality provisions of this section and s. 951.27 commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (7) EXEMPTIONS.--Except as provided in paragraph (4)(d) and ss. 627.429 and 641.3007, insurers and others participating in activities related to the insurance application and underwriting process shall be exempt from this section.
- (8) MODEL PROTOCOL FOR COUNSELING AND TESTING FOR HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS. -- The Department of Health shall develop a model protocol consistent with the provisions of this section for counseling and testing persons for the human immunodeficiency virus.
 - (9) FEES.--
- (a) Each person or private organization registered as an AIDS or HIV testing site shall pay the department a fee which shall be set by rule of the department.
- (b) Fees established pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be an amount sufficient to meet all costs incurred by the department in carrying out its registration, data collection, complaint monitoring, and administrative responsibilities under this section, for all private AIDS or HIV testing sites, but shall not exceed \$100.
- $\,$ (c) No other fees shall be charged by other governmental agencies for these purposes.

1 (10) RULES.--The Department of Health may adopt such 2 rules as are necessary to implement this section. 3 (11) TESTING AS A CONDITION OF TREATMENT OR 4 ADMISSION. --5 (a) It is unlawful for any facility the operation of 6 which, or for any person engaged in an occupation the practice 7 of which, requires a license by the Agency for Health Care 8 Administration, the Department of Health, or the Department of 9 Business and Professional Regulation, to require any person to 10 take or submit to a human immunodeficiency virus-related test 11 as a condition of admission to any such facility or as a condition of purchasing or obtaining any service or product 12 for which the license is required. This subsection shall not 13 be construed to prohibit any physician in good faith from 14 15 declining to provide a particular treatment requested by a 16 patient if the appropriateness of that treatment can only be 17 determined through a human immunodeficiency virus-related 18 test. (b) The Agency for Health Care Administration, the 19 20 Department of Health, and the Department of Business and 21 Professional Regulation shall adopt rules implementing this 22 subsection. 23 (c) Any violation of this subsection or the rules 24 implementing it shall be punishable as provided in subsection 25 (6). 26 Section 2. Subsection (10) is added to section 27 395.3025, Florida Statutes, to read: 28 395.3025 Patient and personnel records; copies; 29 examination. --30 (10) Patient records shall include a notation of any 31 infectious diseases, including the result of HIV testing

conducted pursuant to s. 381.004(3)(i)13., and shall be made available to the health care providers involved in the patient's care so that appropriate treatment can be provided and that protection can be offered to the health care providers. Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998. ********** SENATE SUMMARY Requires HIV testing of persons entering a health care facility licensed under ch. 395, F.S., for treatment involving an invasive procedure. Health care providers of patients are entitled to know HIV test results, but they may not breach requirements of confidentiality.