

By the Committee on Health Care Services and Representatives Heyman, Bloom, D. Prewitt, Morroni, Roberts-Burke, Bush, Ritter, Lynn, Brown, Jacobs, Dawson-White, Fischer, Miller, Ogles, Kosmas, Arnall, Casey, Diaz de la Portilla and Rodriguez-Chomat

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to health care; creating s.  
3           381.0045, F.S.; creating the "Targeted Outreach  
4           for Pregnant Women Act of 1998"; providing  
5           purpose; requiring the Department of Health to  
6           establish a pilot program; providing  
7           requirements; requiring interim and final  
8           reports; providing an appropriation; providing  
9           an effective date.

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11           WHEREAS, Florida ranks second in the nation in the  
12           number of female AIDS cases and pediatric AIDS cases, and

13           WHEREAS, approximately 700 HIV-infected women give  
14           birth each year in Florida, and

15           WHEREAS, the administration of Zidovudine (AZT) to  
16           pregnant HIV-infected women can reduce the rate of  
17           mother-to-child transmission by as much as two-thirds, while  
18           without it approximately 210 of the 700 babies born to  
19           HIV-infected women in Florida would test positive for HIV, and

20           WHEREAS, thousands of infants born each year in Florida  
21           are identified as prenatally substance-exposed, and

22           WHEREAS, the effect on a fetus from drugs can result in  
23           a lifetime of devastating physical and mental problems for the  
24           child, and

25           WHEREAS, the lifetime cost of treating an HIV-infected  
26           infant can be as high as \$200,000, and the cost of caring for  
27           drug-exposed infants can be as high as \$65,000, with special  
28           classes for substance-exposed children costing approximately  
29           \$17,000 per year, and

30           WHEREAS, there is a strong need to reach out to  
31           pregnant women who do not seek prenatal care, substance abuse

1 treatment, or HIV testing due to poverty, lack of  
2 transportation, lack of education, lack of health insurance,  
3 fear of legal consequences, fear of domestic violence, and  
4 fear of losing their child, and

5 WHEREAS, preventing perinatally transmitted HIV  
6 infection and substance exposure depends on maximizing the  
7 opportunities for pregnant women to learn their HIV status, to  
8 be offered and receive preventive AZT therapy, and to gain  
9 access to drug treatment and other health and social services  
10 for themselves and their infants, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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14 Section 1. Section 381.0045, Florida Statutes, is  
15 created to read:

16 381.0045 Targeted outreach for pregnant women.--

17 (1) This section may be cited as the "Targeted  
18 Outreach for Pregnant Women Act of 1998."

19 (2) It is the purpose of this section to establish a  
20 targeted outreach program for high-risk pregnant women who may  
21 not seek proper prenatal care, who suffer from substance abuse  
22 problems, or who are infected with human immunodeficiency  
23 virus (HIV), and to provide these women with links to much  
24 needed services and information.

25 (3) Effective October 1, 1998, the Department of  
26 Health shall establish a 2-year pilot program to provide  
27 outreach services to high-risk pregnant women, based in county  
28 health departments in the five counties with the highest rates  
29 of HIV infection in pregnant women and the largest proportion  
30 of substance-exposed newborns. These counties shall include  
31 Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, and Orange Counties.

1           (4) The department shall:  
2           (a) Conduct outreach programs through contracts with,  
3 grants to, or other working relationships with persons or  
4 entities where the target population is likely to be found.  
5           (b) Provide outreach that is peer-based, culturally  
6 sensitive, and performed in a nonjudgmental manner.  
7           (c) Encourage high-risk pregnant women of unknown  
8 status to be tested for HIV.  
9           (d) Educate women not receiving prenatal care as to  
10 the benefits of such care.  
11           (e) Provide HIV-infected pregnant women with  
12 information so they can make an informed decision about the  
13 use of Zidovudine (AZT).  
14           (f) Link women with substance abuse treatment, when  
15 available, and act as a liaison with Healthy Start coalitions,  
16 children's medical services, Ryan White-funded providers, and  
17 other services of the Department of Health.  
18           (g) Provide continued oversight to HIV-infected  
19 newborns.  
20           (5) The types of entities the department is encouraged  
21 to contract with, provide grants to, or enter into other  
22 working relationships with may include, but are not limited  
23 to, faith-based organizations, academic institutions,  
24 religious organizations, nonprofit community centers, and  
25 other social-services-related entities.  
26           Section 2. The Department of Health shall compile and  
27 analyze the risk information collected by the targeted  
28 outreach programs and other services of the Department of  
29 Health, including Healthy Start coalitions, children's medical  
30 services, and Ryan White-funded providers, and submit to the  
31 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the

1 President of the Senate an interim report by December 1, 1999,  
2 and a final report by December 1, 2000, that includes, but is  
3 not limited to:

4 (1) The number of pregnant women and infants  
5 identified as at potential risk of HIV infection or substance  
6 abuse.

7 (2) The number of pregnant women and infants who  
8 receive outreach services.

9 (3) The demand for services and unmet need for  
10 services for the identified target groups.

11 (4) An assessment of the program's success in reaching  
12 high-risk pregnant women and providing these women and their  
13 infants with much needed services and information.

14 (5) Recommendations regarding whether the program  
15 should be continued or expanded statewide, the funding  
16 necessary to continue or expand the program, and any  
17 additional efforts that are necessary to maximize the success  
18 of the program.

19 Section 3. There is hereby appropriated to the  
20 Department of Health from the General Revenue Fund the sum of  
21 \$500,000 to establish target outreach programs in Dade,  
22 Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, and Orange Counties, with  
23 two existing employees to be based in each county's health  
24 department. All of the funds appropriated to the department  
25 shall be used in the delivery of services as described in s.  
26 381.0045, Florida Statutes, as created by this act.

27 Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1 of the  
28 year in which enacted.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Creates the "Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women Act of 1998." Requires the Department of Health to establish a 2-year pilot program in Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, and Orange Counties to provide outreach services linking pregnant women at risk of HIV infection and substance-exposed newborns to services and information. Requires the department to compile and analyze certain information, and provide recommendations on program continuation, in interim and final reports to the Governor and Legislature. Provides an appropriation.