

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 2352

SPONSOR: Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, Senator Hargrett, and Senator Dawson-White

SUBJECT: Community Health

DATE: April 21, 1999 REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

|    | ANALYST       | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION              |
|----|---------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1. | <u>Carter</u> | <u>Wilson</u>  | <u>HC</u> | <u>Favorable/CS</u> |
| 2. | _____         | _____          | <u>FP</u> | _____               |
| 3. | _____         | _____          | _____     | _____               |
| 4. | _____         | _____          | _____     | _____               |
| 5. | _____         | _____          | _____     | _____               |

## I. Summary:

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 2352 establishes the “Florida Community Health Protection Act” to address the health needs of low-income communities in urban and rural areas of the state. The bill provides legislative findings and creates five pilot projects. The bill designates areas within: Pinellas County; Escambia County; Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, and Manatee Counties for operation of mobile health screening units to provide public health care to persons living in low-income urban and rural communities; Palm Beach County; and the City of St. Petersburg. The bill provides duties for the Department of Health, including preparation of a report to be submitted to the Legislature and the Governor by January 1, 2001, that contains the findings, accomplishments, and recommendations of the Community Health pilot projects. The bill provides an appropriation of \$1.825 million for Fiscal Year 1999-2000, and specifies allocations from the appropriation to the pilot projects and the Department of Health, and provides guidelines for spending the allocated funds.

This bill creates ss. 381.100, 381.102, 381.103, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and one undesignated section of law.

## II. Present Situation:

The Department of Health is delegated duties and responsibilities relating to the protection of public health in Florida. Public health developed as a professional discipline in large part due to the recognition that poor sanitary conditions were directly affecting the quality of life and life expectancy. The department has stated that its mission is to promote and protect the health and safety of all state residents and visitors to the state. The department develops policies to improve public health, enforce health-related laws and regulations, regulates health care practitioners, and provides specialized and basic health care services to people who have difficulty accessing care from the private sector.

The department provides services in three broad areas: (1) community public health, (2) services for children with special health care needs, and (3) the regulation of health care practitioners. Community public health services include the control of infectious diseases, the provision of basic family health services, and the reduction of environmental health hazards. Environmental health services include facility, water, sewage, and other sanitation and safety services to protect the public from health threats of environmental origin.

County health departments are the primary operational arm for the department's community public health functions. To help control health threats of environmental origin, county health departments monitor and regulate sanitation and safety conditions, in a variety of facilities; inspect and monitor onsite sewage disposal systems; test private and limited-use water systems for contamination; provide animal and mosquito-borne disease control services; and handle a number of sanitary nuisance issues. Also, county health departments investigate food and water borne disease outbreaks to ascertain cause; provide toxicological analysis to identify potential health hazards; and regulate radiation emitting devices and materials. County health departments coordinate many of their activities with other agencies that have jurisdiction over various responsibilities relating to the environment such as the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Additionally, county health departments provide: immunizations; treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis; and communicable disease surveillance. Family Health Services provide access to basic health services through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and nutrition services; family planning; school health; dental health; and medical care for acute and episodic conditions. County health departments also screen for chronic diseases and provide education for reducing behaviors that lead to chronic disease.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1.** Creates s. 381.100, F.S., to designate ss. 381.100-381.103, F.S., as the "Florida Community Health Protection Act."

**Section 2.** Creates s. 381.102, F.S., relating to the Community Health pilot projects, to state that the Legislature has determined that:

- the State is committed to the economic, environmental, and public health revitalization of its communities;
- measures to address the public health needs of low-income communities in urban and rural areas must be implemented to ensure the sustainability of such communities;
- implementation of such measures will enhance cooperative efforts among the private sector, government, and nonprofit organizations in Florida to ensure the state's sustainability; and
- it would be beneficial to provide resources in Florida to undertake a series of pilot projects that demonstrate techniques and approaches to ensure health care for disease prevention and health promotion for low-income persons who are living in urban and rural areas.

Pilot projects are created and empowered to form partnerships with existing health care providers and units, contribute to a health care needs assessment, provide research capacity to improve health status, and serve as the basis for health care capacity in urban and rural communities. The

pilot projects are created in: Pinellas County, for the Greenwood Community Health Center in Clearwater; Escambia County, for low-income communities within the Palafox Redevelopment Area; Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, and Manatee Counties for operation of mobile health screening units to provide public health care to persons living in low-income urban and rural communities; Palm Beach County, for the low-income communities within the City of Riviera Beach; and the City of St. Petersburg, for the low-income communities within the Challenge 2001 Area.

**Section 3.** Creates s. 381.103, F.S., providing duties of the Department of Health relating to the pilot projects created in the bill. Such duties require the department to: (1) assist the pilot projects in development and implementation of their community programs by acting as the granting agency and contracting with the pilot projects; (2) facilitate the integration of the pilot projects with ongoing departmental programs to avoid duplication of services and enhance synergy between programs; (3) develop educational and outreach programs for health care providers and communities that increase awareness of the health care needs for low-income persons living in urban and rural communities; (4) assist the pilot projects in obtaining low-cost health care services designed to prevent disease and promote health in low-income communities; (5) prepare a report to be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor presenting the findings, accomplishments, and recommendations of the Community Health pilot projects by January 1, 2001; and (6) facilitate cooperation between affected communities, appropriate agencies, and ongoing initiatives, such as Front Porch Florida.

**Section 4.** Provides an appropriation for the Community Health pilot projects of \$1.825 million from General Revenue to the Department of Health for Fiscal Year 1999-2000. Allocations from the appropriated funds are \$380,000 each to:

- the Greenwood Community Health Center in Clearwater, Pinellas County;
- the Palafox Redevelopment Area in Escambia County;
- the Challenge 2001 Area in the City of St. Petersburg;
- the City of Riviera Beach in Palm Beach County and

The bill allocates \$100,000 to the Urban League of Pinellas County, and \$205,000 to the Department of Health, to assist in the implementation of the pilot projects.

Specific guidelines are provided for the expenditure of the appropriated funds which must be used for:

- funding for the pilot projects for delivery of health services, including screening, diagnosis of disease, treatment or routing for treatment of disease; preventive annual physical examinations; and consultation on measures to prevent diseases; construction costs associated with the delivery of health services; or operation costs associated with the delivery of health services;
- funding for the Department of Health which shall be used for:
  - ▶ identification of health needs of low-income persons living in urban and rural communities;

- ▶ resources for accessing the delivery of health services through Medicare, Medicaid, and third-party coverage, among other sources, and for ensuring quality assurance and quality control for the implementation of the Community Health pilot projects;
- ▶ preparation of a report to be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor on the findings, accomplishments, and recommendations of the Community Health pilot projects; and
- ▶ to administer the responsibilities as specified in the bill.

**Section 5.** Provides an effective date of July 1, 1999.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

##### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

The provisions of this bill have no impact on municipalities and the counties under the requirements of Article VII, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution.

##### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

The provisions of this bill have no impact on public records or open meetings issues under the requirements of Article I, Subsections 24(a) and (b) of the Florida Constitution.

##### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

The provisions of this bill have no impact on the trust fund restrictions under the requirements of Article III, Subsection 19(f) of the Florida Constitution.

#### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

##### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

##### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

To the extent that improved health may contribute to economic viability and growth, low-income urban and rural communities in which a pilot project is established, as provided in the bill, should benefit from the additional health resources.

##### **C. Government Sector Impact:**

An appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Health of \$1.825 for Fiscal Year 1999-2000 is provided.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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