

By Representative Peadar

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to health care; establishing  
3           the Women and Heart Disease Task Force;  
4           providing for membership; specifying  
5           responsibilities; requiring a report; providing  
6           for future repeal; providing an appropriation;  
7           providing an effective date.

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9           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that heart disease is  
10          the leading cause of death among American women and that women  
11          fare worse after heart attacks than men, and

12           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that women are almost 50  
13          percent more likely than men to die from their heart attacks  
14          and, even when age and other medical differences are taken  
15          into consideration, women are still 13 percent more likely  
16          than men to die from their heart attacks, and

17           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that women who suffer a  
18          first heart attack are at more than 70 percent greater risk of  
19          death or readmission to a hospital than men and that more  
20          women than men die from heart attacks within the first year  
21          after their first heart attack and more women than men will  
22          suffer a heart attack within 4 years after their first heart  
23          attack, and

24           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the diagnosis of  
25          heart disease can be harder in women and that women usually  
26          have subtler symptoms of heart attack than men, which may  
27          contribute to the fact that women typically receive medical  
28          treatment for heart attacks later than men, and

29           WHEREAS, through the establishment of a state task  
30          force on women and heart disease, the Legislature intends to  
31          decrease the number of deaths due to heart disease by

1 increasing public awareness of heart disease in women, by  
2 increasing, through public education, the percentage of women  
3 who seek examinations by physicians and obtain preventive care  
4 with regard to heart disease, and by increasing, through  
5 private, state, and federal dollars, research and coordination  
6 at Florida institutions that are studying the causes, methods  
7 of prevention, and treatment of heart disease in women, NOW,  
8 THEREFORE,

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

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12 Section 1. Women and Heart Disease Task Force.--

13 (1) There is created within the Department of Health  
14 the Women and Heart Disease Task Force, to identify where  
15 public awareness, public education, research, and coordination  
16 regarding women and heart disease are lacking, to prepare  
17 recommendations to establish research on the reasons women  
18 suffer more severe first heart attacks than men and the  
19 reasons women die more often from heart attacks, and to  
20 increase the public's awareness of the importance of  
21 identifying the symptoms of, and treating, heart disease in  
22 women.

23 (2) The task force is composed of the Secretary of  
24 Health or a designee, the Insurance Commissioner or a  
25 designee, and 22 members to be appointed by July 15, 2000, as  
26 follows:

27 (a) The Governor shall appoint one representative of  
28 the University of Miami School of Medicine, one female family  
29 physician from the Florida Academy of Family Physicians, one  
30 female representative of the public who is a consumer advocate  
31 and who has been diagnosed with heart disease, one

1 representative of the Florida Medical Association, one  
2 representative of the Florida Chapter College of Cardiology,  
3 one representative of the College of Emergency Physicians, one  
4 representative of a business that has more than 300 employees,  
5 and one representative of a statutory teaching hospital.

6 (b) The President of the Senate shall appoint one  
7 representative of the University of Florida College of  
8 Medicine, one representative of the American Heart  
9 Association, one female representative of the public who is a  
10 consumer advocate and who has been diagnosed with heart  
11 disease, one representative of the NOVA Southeastern  
12 University of Osteopathic Medicine, one representative of the  
13 Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, one representative of  
14 the Florida Nurses Association, and one representative of a  
15 health maintenance organization.

16 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
17 appoint one representative of the American Association of  
18 Critical Care Nurses, one representative of the Mayo Clinic,  
19 one representative of the University of South Florida College  
20 of Medicine, one representative of the Florida Society of  
21 Internal Medicine, one representative of the public who is a  
22 consumer advocate, one representative of the Florida Affiliate  
23 of the American Heart Association, and one representative of  
24 the insurance industry.

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26 At least one of the persons appointed by each appointing  
27 entity shall be a member of an ethnic or racial minority. At  
28 least one-half of the members appointed by each appointing  
29 entity shall be women.

30 (3) The task force shall exist for 2 years and shall  
31 meet as often as necessary to carry out its duties and

1 responsibilities. Within existing resources, the Department  
2 of Health shall provide support services to the task force.

3 (4) The members of the task force shall serve without  
4 compensation.

5 (5) The task force may obtain information and  
6 assistance from any state agency. All state agencies must  
7 give the task force all relevant information and reasonable  
8 assistance on matters related to heart disease.

9 (6) The task force shall collect research and  
10 information on heart disease in women and shall prepare  
11 recommendations for reducing the incidence and the number of  
12 women's deaths related to heart disease in this state, to be  
13 included in a report submitted to the Governor and the  
14 Legislature by January 15, 2002. The task force shall also  
15 review and report on:

16 (a) The Florida Insurance Code as it relates to  
17 coverage for women's heart disease screening and treatment  
18 options. The task force shall include in its report  
19 recommended changes to the Florida Insurance Code, including  
20 specific statutory language, if the task force determines such  
21 changes are necessary to ensure that policyholders have  
22 coverage for appropriate and necessary heart disease  
23 prevention, screening, and treatment. If any legislative  
24 changes are recommended that would mandate a health coverage  
25 or the offering of a health coverage, the task force must  
26 assess the impact of the proposal as specified in s. 624.215,  
27 Florida Statutes.

28 (b) Approaches that may be used by state and local  
29 governments to increase public awareness of the risks of heart  
30 disease in women.

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1           (c) Approaches to improving coordination among  
2 agencies and institutions involved in research on and  
3 treatment of heart disease in women.

4           (d) National trends with regard to women and heart  
5 disease, as well as how these trends compare to trends in  
6 Florida.

7           (7) The task force's recommendations shall include:

8           (a) A plan for reducing the number of deaths related  
9 to heart disease in this state, including:

10           1. Specific strategies for reducing the mortality rate  
11 of women with heart disease and an analysis of the extent to  
12 which these strategies differ from such strategies for men.

13           2. A list of health conditions that may cause or  
14 contribute to heart disease in women and the best methods to  
15 identify, control, and prevent these conditions from  
16 developing into heart disease.

17           3. The best methods to ensure an increase in the  
18 percentage of women in this state who receive the tests  
19 designed to determine the risk of heart disease and to  
20 identify related conditions such as hypertension, diabetes,  
21 and high blood levels of cholesterol.

22           4. The best methods to ensure an increase in the  
23 percentage of women in this state who seek examinations from  
24 physicians.

25           (b) A plan for increasing research and appropriate  
26 funding at Florida institutions studying heart disease in  
27 women.

28           (c) A program to monitor the implementation and  
29 effectiveness of the task force's recommendations.

30           (8) Through funding appropriated to the Department of  
31 Health, the Women and Heart Disease Task Force shall develop

1 and implement an educational program, to include the  
2 distribution of summaries, informing the public of the risk of  
3 heart disease specific to women and the strategies to follow  
4 for prevention, early detection, and treatment of heart  
5 disease.

6 (9) This section is repealed effective July 1, 2002.

7 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General  
8 Revenue Fund to the Department of Health the sum of \$150,000  
9 for fiscal year 2000-2001 and \$150,000 for fiscal year  
10 2001-2002, to be used to produce or purchase and to distribute  
11 summaries in English, Spanish, and Creole that inform women  
12 patients about their risk of heart disease and about treatment  
13 alternatives for heart disease, and to develop and implement  
14 an educational program that includes the distribution of  
15 information specific to women and heart disease.

16 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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19 HOUSE SUMMARY

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21 Creates a 2-year Women and Heart Disease Task Force  
22 within the Department of Health, to promote research and  
23 public awareness regarding heart disease in women.  
24 Provides membership. Provides responsibilities, including  
25 review of the Florida Insurance Code and recommendations  
26 for reducing heart disease deaths in the state and  
27 increasing research and funding at Florida institutions  
28 studying heart disease in women. Requires a report to the  
29 Governor and Legislature by January 15, 2002. Requires  
30 the task force to develop and implement an educational  
31 program. Provides an appropriation.

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