

ENROLLED

2000 Legislature CS for CS for SB 352, 1st Engrossed (ntc)

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An act relating to health care; establishing the Women and Heart Disease Task Force; providing for membership; specifying responsibilities; requiring a report; providing for future repeal; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that women are almost 50 percent more likely than men to die from their heart attacks and, even when age and other medical differences are considered, women are still 13 percent more likely than men to die from their heart attacks, and

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

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

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

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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 Executive Director of the Agency for  
25 Health Care Administration or a designee, the Insurance  
26 Commissioner or a designee, and 28 members to be appointed by  
27 July 15, 2000, as follows:

28 (a) The Governor shall appoint one representative from  
29 the Florida State Medical Association, one representative from  
30 the Black Nurses Association, one representative from the  
31 Association for Black Women Physicians, one representative of

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1 the University of Miami School of Medicine, one female family  
2 physician from the Florida Academy of Family Physicians, one  
3 female representative of the public who is a consumer advocate  
4 and who has been diagnosed with heart disease, one  
5 representative of the Florida Medical Association, one  
6 representative of the Florida Chapter College of Cardiology,  
7 one representative of the College of Emergency Physicians, one  
8 representative of a business that has more than 300 employees,  
9 one representative of a family practice teaching hospital, and  
10 one representative of a statutory teaching hospital.

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

22 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
23 appoint one representative of the American Association of  
24 Critical Care Nurses, one representative of the Mayo Clinic,  
25 one representative of the University of South Florida College  
26 of Medicine, one representative of the Florida Society of  
27 Internal Medicine, one representative of the public who is a  
28 consumer advocate, one representative of the Florida Affiliate  
29 of the American Heart Association, one representative of the  
30 Biotechnology Industry Organization, and one representative of  
31 the insurance industry.

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2 At least one of the persons appointed by each appointing  
3 entity shall be a member of an ethnic or racial minority. At  
4 least one-half of the members appointed by each appointing  
5 entity shall be women.

6 (3) The task force shall exist for 2 years and shall  
7 meet as often as necessary to carry out its duties and  
8 responsibilities. Within existing resources, the Department  
9 of Health shall provide support services to the task force.

10 (4) The members of the task force shall serve without  
11 compensation but shall be reimbursed for per diem and travel  
12 expenses by the Department of Health in accordance with the  
13 provisions of section 112.061, Florida Statutes, while  
14 performing their duties.

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

19 (6) The task force shall collect research and  
20 information on heart disease in women and shall prepare  
21 recommendations and proposed legislation for reducing the  
22 incidence and the number of women's deaths related to heart  
23 disease in this state, to be included in a report submitted to  
24 the Governor and the Legislature by January 15, 2002. The  
25 task force shall also review and report on:

26 (a) The Florida Insurance Code as it relates to  
27 coverage for women's heart disease screening and treatment  
28 options. The task force shall include in its report  
29 recommended changes to the Florida Insurance Code, including  
30 specific statutory language, if the task force determines such  
31 changes are necessary to ensure that policyholders have

1 coverage for appropriate and necessary heart disease  
2 prevention, screening, and treatment. If any legislative  
3 changes are recommended that would mandate a health coverage  
4 or the offering of a health coverage, the task force must  
5 assess the impact of the proposal as specified in s. 624.215,  
6 Florida Statutes.

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

10 (c) Approaches to improving coordination among  
11 agencies and institutions involved in research on and  
12 treatment of heart disease in women.

13 (d) National trends with regard to women and heart  
14 disease, as well as how these trends compare to trends in  
15 Florida.

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

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

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

22 2. A list of health conditions that may cause or  
23 contribute to heart disease in women and the best methods by  
24 which to identify, control, and prevent these conditions from  
25 developing into heart disease.

26 3. The best methods for ensuring an increase in the  
27 percentage of women in this state who receive the tests  
28 designed to determine the risk of heart disease and to  
29 identify related conditions such as hypertension, diabetes,  
30 and high blood levels of cholesterol.

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1           4. The best methods for ensuring an increase in the  
2 percentage of women in this state who seek examinations from  
3 physicians.

4           (b) A plan for increasing research and appropriate  
5 funding at Florida institutions studying heart disease in  
6 women.

7           (c) Recommendations for the development of practice  
8 guidelines for addressing heart disease in women.

9           (d) A program to monitor the implementation and  
10 effectiveness of the task force's recommendations.

11           (8) Through funding appropriated to the Department of  
12 Health, the Women and Heart Disease Task Force shall develop  
13 and implement an educational program, to include the  
14 distribution of summaries, informing the public of the risk of  
15 heart disease specific to women and the strategies to follow  
16 for prevention, early detection, and treatment of heart  
17 disease.

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

19           Section 2. There is appropriated from the General  
20 Revenue Fund to the Department of Health the sum of \$100,000  
21 for fiscal year 2000-2001 and \$100,000 for fiscal year  
22 2001-2002, to be used to produce or purchase and to distribute  
23 summaries in English, Spanish, and Creole which inform women  
24 patients about their risk of heart disease and about treatment  
25 alternatives for heart disease, and to develop and implement  
26 an educational program that includes the distribution of  
27 information specific to women and heart disease.

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