

By Representatives Brutus, Wilson, Rubio, Smith, Meadows,  
Prieguez, Arza, Garcia, Diaz-Balart and Betancourt

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to human immunodeficiency  
3           virus; amending s. 381.0046, F.S.; increasing  
4           the number of HIV and AIDS minority  
5           coordinators within the Department of Health;  
6           requiring the department to expand its HIV/AIDS  
7           prevention efforts in Florida's minority  
8           communities and establish linkage programs for  
9           HIV-positive inmates prior to their release  
10          from jail; deleting obsolete language;  
11          providing an appropriation; providing an  
12          effective date.

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14           WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is one of the state's most critical  
15          public health challenges, with Florida having the third  
16          highest number of AIDS cases in the nation and the second  
17          highest number of pediatric AIDS cases, and

18           WHEREAS, minorities, primarily blacks and Hispanics,  
19          now constitute 61 percent of the more than 83,000 adult and  
20          pediatric AIDS cases reported in Florida since the epidemic  
21          began in 1981, and

22           WHEREAS, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has disproportionately  
23          affected Florida's minority communities, and

24           WHEREAS, the total medical and related lifetime costs  
25          for a patient infected with HIV may reach \$175,000 or more,  
26          and

27           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that sustained,  
28          comprehensive prevention efforts can have a substantial impact  
29          on slowing the course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and

30           WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to decrease the number  
31          of deaths of minorities due to HIV/AIDS by increasing public

1 awareness, increasing early detection and treatment of  
2 HIV/AIDS in the state's minority communities, and increasing  
3 the coordination of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts  
4 in the state's minority communities, and

5 WHEREAS, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the state's  
6 jails exceeds the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the general  
7 population, and

8 WHEREAS, recent advances in treatment for HIV/AIDS can  
9 potentially reduce the number of opportunistic infections and  
10 associated medical costs and delay the onset of death due to  
11 the disease, and

12 WHEREAS, referral to appropriate medical and social  
13 services upon the release of an inmate can play a crucial role  
14 in treatment, care, and secondary prevention efforts, and

15 WHEREAS, the Legislature authorized the creation of the  
16 Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force to provide recommendations on  
17 strategies to strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention, early  
18 intervention, and treatment efforts in Florida's minority  
19 communities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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23 Section 1. Section 381.0046, Florida Statutes, is  
24 amended to read:

25 381.0046 Statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign.--

26 (1) The Department of Health shall develop and  
27 implement a statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign that is  
28 directed towards minorities who are at risk of HIV infection.  
29 The campaign shall include television, radio, and outdoor  
30 advertising; public service announcements; and peer-to-peer  
31 outreach. Each campaign message and concept shall be evaluated

1 with members of the target group to ensure its effectiveness.  
2 The campaign shall provide information on the risk of HIV and  
3 AIDS infection and strategies to follow for prevention, early  
4 detection, and treatment. The campaign shall use culturally  
5 sensitive literature and educational materials and promote the  
6 development of individual skills for behavior modification.  
7 The campaign shall be expanded to include prevention  
8 information specifically targeted to Florida's Hispanic and  
9 Haitian communities.

10 (2) The Department of Health shall establish eight  
11 ~~four~~ positions within the department for HIV and AIDS regional  
12 minority coordinators and one position for a statewide HIV and  
13 AIDS minority coordinator. The coordinators shall facilitate  
14 statewide efforts to implement and coordinate HIV and AIDS  
15 prevention and treatment programs. The statewide coordinator  
16 shall report directly to the chief of the Bureau of HIV and  
17 AIDS within the Department of Health.

18 (3) The Department of Health shall provide HIV/AIDS  
19 outreach programs in Florida's minority communities to  
20 identify persons infected with HIV/AIDS. These programs shall  
21 address real and perceived barriers to HIV testing among  
22 Florida's minority populations.~~The Department of Health~~  
23 ~~shall, with assistance from the Minority HIV and AIDS Task~~  
24 ~~Force and the statewide coordinator, plan and conduct a~~  
25 ~~statewide Black Leadership Conference on HIV and AIDS by~~  
26 ~~January 2000. The conference shall provide workshops for~~  
27 ~~minority organizations in building skills and improving an~~  
28 ~~organization's capacity to conduct HIV and AIDS prevention and~~  
29 ~~treatment programs.~~

30 (4) The department shall provide a program to ensure  
31 that HIV-positive persons are linked with prevention, care,

1 and support services. This program shall be provided in a  
2 culturally sensitive manner to promote prevention among  
3 persons who are HIV positive and increase the acceptance and  
4 delivery of care and support services in high-risk  
5 communities.

6 (5) The department shall expand testing programs for  
7 HIV, sexually transmissible diseases, and hepatitis in local  
8 county jails. The department shall establish programs for  
9 HIV-positive inmates to ensure coordination and linkage to  
10 treatment and secondary prevention messages upon their  
11 release.

12 (6) To promote HIV testing among minority persons who  
13 are at risk of infection, the department shall expand its HIV  
14 counseling, testing, and referral services to include  
15 additional Orasure testing.

16 (7) These minority programs shall be consistent with  
17 the findings and recommendations of the Minority HIV and AIDS  
18 Task Force, the HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Prevention Plan, and  
19 the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and  
20 Prevention.

21 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General  
22 Revenue Fund to the Department of Health the sum of \$5 million  
23 to implement the programs described in this act. The  
24 Department of Health is authorized to use 1 percent of this  
25 appropriation for administration of these programs.

26 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
27 law.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Increases from four to eight the number of HIV and AIDS minority coordinators within the Department of Health. Requires the department to expand its HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in Florida's minority communities and establish linkage programs for HIV-positive inmates prior to their release from jail. Provides an appropriation.