



HB 0417

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CHAMBER ACTION

The Committee on Health Care recommends the following:

Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to human immunodeficiency virus; amending s. 381.0046, F.S.; increasing the number of HIV and AIDS minority coordinators within the Department of Health; requiring 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 county jail or state prison; deleting obsolete provisions; providing an effective date.

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

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



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

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

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

35 WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to decrease the number of
36 deaths of minorities due to HIV/AIDS by increasing public
37 awareness, increasing early detection and treatment of HIV/AIDS
38 in the state's minority communities, and increasing the
39 coordination of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts in the
40 state's minority communities, and

41 WHEREAS, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the state's county
42 jails and state prisons exceeds the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in
43 the general population, and

44 WHEREAS, recent advances in treatment for HIV/AIDS can
45 potentially reduce the number of opportunistic infections and
46 associated medical costs and delay the onset of death due to the
47 disease, and

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

51 WHEREAS, the Legislature authorized the creation of the
52 Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force to provide recommendations on
53 strategies to strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention, early
54 intervention, and treatment efforts in Florida's minority
55 communities, NOW, THEREFORE,



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

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

381.0046 Statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign.--

(1) The Department of Health shall develop and implement a statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign that is directed towards minorities who are at risk of HIV infection. The campaign shall include television, radio, and outdoor advertising; public service announcements; and peer-to-peer outreach. Each campaign message and concept shall be evaluated with members of the target group to ensure its effectiveness. The campaign shall provide information on the risk of HIV and AIDS infection and strategies to follow for prevention, early detection, and treatment. The campaign shall use culturally sensitive literature and educational materials and promote the development of individual skills for behavior modification. The campaign shall be expanded to include prevention information specifically targeted to Florida's Hispanic and Haitian communities.

(2) The Department of Health shall establish eight ~~four~~ positions within the department for HIV and AIDS regional minority coordinators and one position for a statewide HIV and AIDS minority coordinator. The coordinators shall facilitate statewide efforts to implement and coordinate HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment programs. The statewide coordinator



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83 shall report directly to the chief of the Bureau of HIV and AIDS
84 within the Department of Health.

85 (3) The Department of Health shall provide HIV/AIDS
86 outreach programs in Florida's minority communities to identify
87 persons infected with HIV/AIDS. These programs shall address
88 real and perceived barriers to HIV testing among Florida's
89 minority populations. The Department of Health shall, with
90 assistance from the Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force and the
91 statewide coordinator, plan and conduct a statewide Black
92 Leadership Conference on HIV and AIDS by January 2000. The
93 conference shall provide workshops for minority organizations in
94 building skills and improving an organization's capacity to
95 conduct HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment programs.

96 (4) The department shall provide a program to ensure that
97 HIV-positive persons are linked with prevention, care, and
98 support services. This program shall be provided in a culturally
99 sensitive manner to promote prevention among persons who are HIV
100 positive and increase the acceptance and delivery of care and
101 support services in high-risk communities.

102 (5) The department shall expand testing programs for HIV,
103 sexually transmissible diseases, and hepatitis in local county
104 jails. The department shall establish programs for HIV-positive
105 county jail and state prison inmates to ensure coordination and
106 linkage to treatment and secondary prevention messages upon
107 their release.

108 (6) To promote HIV testing among minority persons who are
109 at risk of infection, the department shall expand its HIV



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110 counseling, testing, and referral services to include additional
111 Orasure testing.

112 (7) These minority programs shall be consistent with the
113 findings and recommendations of the Minority HIV and AIDS Task
114 Force, the HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Prevention Plan, and the
115 recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and
116 Prevention.

117 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.
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