

By Senator Wilson

33-33-04

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 provisions;  
11          providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

29           WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to decrease the number  
30          of deaths of minorities due to HIV/AIDS by increasing public  
31          awareness, increasing early detection and treatment of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 381.0046 Statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign.--

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

1 The campaign shall provide information on the risk of HIV and  
2 AIDS infection and strategies to follow for prevention, early  
3 detection, and treatment. The campaign shall use culturally  
4 sensitive literature and educational materials and promote the  
5 development of individual skills for behavior modification.

6 The campaign shall be expanded to include prevention  
7 information specifically targeted to Florida's Hispanic and  
8 Haitian communities.

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

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

29 (4) The department shall provide a program to ensure  
30 that HIV-positive persons are linked with prevention, care,  
31 and support services. This program shall be provided in a

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

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

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

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

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

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24 SENATE SUMMARY

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