

HB 1777

2004

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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to adolescent health; creating s.
 381.0058, F.S.; creating the Florida's Future: Adolescent
 Health Initiatives Task Force; providing a purpose for the
 task force; providing definitions; providing legislative
 findings and intent; providing for membership of the task
 force; providing guiding principles; providing
 responsibilities and scope of activity; providing for
 coordination with additional entities; providing an
 appropriation; providing for repeal of the task force;
 providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, adolescence is a critical period in child
 development characterized by distinctive physical, emotional,
 and intellectual changes and accompanied by changes in social
 roles, relationships, and expectations, all of which are
 important for the development of the individual youth and to
 build the foundation necessary for functioning as an adult, and

WHEREAS, the development of healthy adolescents is a
 complex and evolving process that requires the care and support
 of families, peers, schools, and communities; access to high-
 quality health, educational, social, and other faith-based and
 community-based services; and opportunities to engage in and be
 successful in the developmental tasks of adolescence, and

WHEREAS, it has also been shown that parents and families,
 schools, health care providers, the media, and community-based,
 faith-based, and government agencies exert a remarkable
 influence on the behavior and health of adolescents, and

WHEREAS, adolescents make up 15 percent of Florida's

HB 1777

2004

30 population, and they practice or engage in health risk behaviors
 31 which may put them at risk for serious health problems such as
 32 sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection, AIDS, obesity,
 33 unintentional injury, suicide, asthma, tobacco use, unintended
 34 pregnancy, bullying, and other behavioral health issues, and

35 WHEREAS, children with developmental disabilities may face
 36 additional challenges as they transition into adolescence and
 37 young adulthood, and

38 WHEREAS, long-term experience has shown that including a
 39 programmatic focal point for a specific demographic group within
 40 the public health and public education frameworks leads to
 41 enhanced policies, programs, services, and supports for the
 42 designated group, and

43 WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to build upon existing
 44 knowledge and experience in the area of adolescent health, youth
 45 development, and promotion of healthy behaviors, NOW, THEREFORE,

46
 47 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

48
 49 Section 1. Section 381.0058, Florida Statutes, is created
 50 to read:

51 381.0058 Florida's Future: Adolescent Health Initiatives
 52 Task Force.--The purpose of the Florida's Future: Adolescent
 53 Health Initiatives Task Force is to raise awareness of the
 54 leading health indicators which impact adolescent health,
 55 including asthma, obesity, tobacco use, unintended pregnancy,
 56 unintentional injury, suicide, developmental disabilities, HIV
 57 infection, AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and bullying; to
 58 address the challenge of improving the health of the state's

HB 1777

2004

59 adolescents; to identify obstacles that impede or prevent
 60 adolescents from accessing health care or behavioral health
 61 care; and to identify strategies that are successful in
 62 encouraging optimal physical health and behavioral health in
 63 becoming healthy adults.

64 (1) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:

65 (a) "Adolescence" means the period of life between 10 and
 66 21 years of age, during which individuals make the developmental
 67 transition from childhood to adulthood.

68 (b) "Adolescent health" means the state of optimal
 69 physical, emotional, cognitive, social, and spiritual well-being
 70 in young persons between the ages of 10 and 21.

71 (c) "Bullying" means the act of a person who verbally or
 72 physically has power or perceived power over another person.

73 (d) "Youth" means people in the state of adolescence.

74 (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--

75 (a) The Legislature finds that adolescence is a period
 76 during which many lifelong patterns of behavior are formed and
 77 that youth who succeed in the developmental tasks of adolescence
 78 lay the foundation for health and well-being in their adult
 79 lives.

80 (b) The Legislature finds that while the health and
 81 development of all age groups is important, the critical
 82 developmental tasks of adolescence lead to special
 83 considerations and needs for this particular population.

84 (c) The Legislature further finds that adolescent health
 85 and healthy behaviors go hand in hand and that healthy
 86 adolescents have the ability to form caring, supportive
 87 relationships with family and other adults and peers, to engage

HB 1777

2004

88 in a positive way in their communities, to demonstrate
 89 resiliency when confronted with life stressors, to demonstrate
 90 physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and moral competencies,
 91 to demonstrate increasingly responsible and independent
 92 decisionmaking, to experience a sense of self-confidence,
 93 hopefulness, and well-being, to engage in behaviors that
 94 optimize wellness and contribute to a healthy lifestyle, and to
 95 avoid behaviors and activities that can lead to negative health
 96 and life outcomes.

97 (d) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
 98 increase public awareness of the importance of healthy
 99 adolescent development both to individuals and the state, to
 100 address adolescent health from a resiliency and asset-based
 101 approach, and to build a strong foundation for becoming
 102 independent and economically self-sufficient in order to
 103 transition to future healthy relationships, marriages, and
 104 families through the work of the Florida's Future: Adolescent
 105 Health Initiatives Task Force.

106
 107 To the extent practicable, the laws of this state should do all
 108 that is possible to provide support for children as they grow
 109 into and through adolescence and to encourage, promote, and
 110 value strong, safe, long-term marriages and family life that
 111 includes grandparents, family members, community support, and
 112 all that youth need to thrive and grow up healthy.

113 (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.--

114 (a) There is created within the Department of Health, for
 115 administrative and staffing purposes, a task force, as defined
 116 in s. 20.03(8), called Florida's Future: Adolescent Health

HB 1777

2004

117 Initiatives Task Force. The task force shall otherwise function
 118 independently of the control, supervision, and direction of the
 119 department.

120 (b) The Secretary of Health shall designate a State
 121 Adolescent Health Consultant to work closely with the task
 122 force.

123 (c) The task force shall consist of 20 members, including
 124 members from the Department of Juvenile Justice, Agency for
 125 Health Care Administration, Department of Children and Family
 126 Services, Department of Education, Department of Health,
 127 Developmental Disabilities Council, Workforce Florida, Inc., the
 128 private sector, including community and faith-based
 129 organizations, youth advocacy, and community-based service
 130 organizations, an adolescent medicine specialist, and a minimum
 131 of two adolescents and two parents or caregivers. At least 50
 132 percent of the members shall be from the private sector. Members
 133 of the task force should have experience in one or more of the
 134 following areas: public health, workforce development,
 135 education, adolescent health care, treatment of substance abuse,
 136 adolescent development, juvenile justice, prevention, child
 137 abuse and neglect, developmental disabilities, adolescent
 138 behavioral health, law enforcement, faith-based social service
 139 delivery, and youth advocacy.

140 (d) The Secretary of Health shall make recommendations to
 141 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
 142 the House of Representatives for appointments to the task force.
 143 The Governor shall appoint 8 members, and the President of the
 144 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
 145 each appoint 6 members. Initial appointments shall be made by

HB 1777

2004

146 October 1, 2004. Each member of the task force shall serve for
 147 the time the task force is in existence. A vacancy shall be
 148 filled by appointment by the original appointing authority for
 149 the unexpired portion of the term.

150 (e) The first meeting of the task force shall be within 30
 151 days after the appointments are made. Members of the task force
 152 shall elect a chair at the first meeting by a majority vote of
 153 the members present, a quorum being present. A majority of the
 154 membership constitutes a quorum.

155 (f) A quorum shall be required for the task force to meet
 156 and to conduct business. The task force shall meet no fewer than
 157 four times and more frequently upon call of the chair and as
 158 resources permit. The task force may conduct its meetings
 159 through teleconferences or other similar means.

160 (g) Members of the task force are not entitled to
 161 compensation for their service as members but may be reimbursed
 162 for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

163 (h) The task force is encouraged to create subcommittees
 164 that include members who are knowledgeable in a subject area but
 165 who are not members of the task force and who may not vote on
 166 the final report and recommendations of the task force but may
 167 submit reports and recommendations for review by the task force
 168 and may be invited to testify to the task force.

169 (i) The task force may seek and accept grants or funds
 170 from any public source, federal, state, or local, to supplement
 171 its operation and defray the expenses incurred in the operation
 172 and implementation of this section.

173 (4) PRINCIPLES.--The following principles shall guide the
 174 work of the task force:

HB 1777

2004

175 (a) Adolescents should be viewed as a valued and respected
176 asset to society.

177 (b) Programs and policies that serve adolescents should be
178 focused on the developmental needs and tasks of adolescents,
179 reduce racial disparities affecting adolescents, and consider
180 those young individuals as partners rather than clients.

181 (c) Families, schools, and communities should be engaged
182 in developing environments that support adolescents.

183 (d) Adolescents should be involved in activities that
184 enhance their competence, capacity, caring, character, and civic
185 engagement and promote self-understanding, self-worth, a sense
186 of belonging, and resiliency.

187 (e) Services for adolescents should support their
188 abilities and skills to become independent, self-supporting, and
189 law-abiding citizens.

190 (5) RESPONSIBILITIES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.--In order to
191 carry out the purposes of this section, the task force shall,
192 subject to the availability of funds, develop a plan for the
193 task force to accomplish the following:

194 (a) Develop a community awareness campaign to promote
195 community collaboration and coordinated grassroots programs to
196 promote healthy lifestyle choices for adolescents in the state.

197 (b) Establish a committee structure that involves
198 interested partners who are not task force members in providing
199 research, testimony, and support for an adolescent health
200 strategic plan.

201 (c) Develop recommendations to promote supportive
202 environments to enhance healthy families and strengthen
203 families.

HB 1777

2004

204 (d) Develop a strategic plan for improving the health and
 205 safety of the state's adolescents and youth and submit the plan
 206 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
 207 House of Representatives, and the chairpersons of the Senate and
 208 House of Representatives substantive committees no later than
 209 April 1, 2006.

210 (e) Formulate recommendations for workplace, school,
 211 community, and family strategies to support environments that
 212 promote the health and safety of adolescents and youth.

213 (f) Develop an adolescent-friendly Internet website that
 214 focuses on adolescent issues and has a parent component with
 215 links to appropriate adolescent resource documents, adolescent
 216 hotlines, state and local mental health agencies, local
 217 community health centers, and appropriate national
 218 organizations.

219 (g) Make recommendations that encourage the development of
 220 programs that foster daily living skill development and promote
 221 educational and vocational opportunities that help adolescents
 222 transition to adulthood and allow them to support themselves
 223 economically.

224 (6) COORDINATION.--The task force may coordinate its work
 225 with schools, community-based organizations, including those
 226 that are faith-based, the Department of Health, the Department
 227 of Children and Family Services, the Department of Education,
 228 Workforce Florida, Inc., the Department of Juvenile Justice, the
 229 Developmental Disabilities Council, state and local associations
 230 that provide services to adolescents, Child Protection Teams,
 231 private-sector agencies that serve adolescents, youth boards,
 232 and any appropriate research and policy development centers,

HB 1777

2004

233 including, but not limited to, those within universities that
 234 focus on issues related to adolescents, families, poverty, and
 235 child and adolescent development.

236 (7) APPROPRIATION.--There is hereby appropriated from the
 237 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Health the sum of
 238 \$200,000 for implementation of this section.

239 (8) REPEAL.--This section is repealed on June 30, 2006,
 240 unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the
 241 Legislature.

242 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.