

HB 1803

2004

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Officer of Women's Health Strategy;
 3 amending s. 20.43, F.S.; establishing the Officer of
 4 Women's Health Strategy in the Department of Health;
 5 providing the duties of such officer; requiring an annual
 6 report to the Governor and Legislature; requiring
 7 consideration of women's health issues and gender in state
 8 policy, planning, and budgeting; providing an effective
 9 date.

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

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13 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 20.43, Florida
 14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15 20.43 Department of Health.--There is created a Department
 16 of Health.

17 (2)(a) The head of the Department of Health is the
 18 Secretary of Health and State Health Officer. The secretary must
 19 be a physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 who has
 20 advanced training or extensive experience in public health
 21 administration. The secretary is appointed by the Governor
 22 subject to confirmation by the Senate. The secretary serves at
 23 the pleasure of the Governor.

24 (b) The Officer of Women's Health Strategy is established
 25 within the Department of Health.

26 1. The officer shall:

27 a. Ensure that the state's policies and programs are
 28 responsive to sex and gender differences and to women's health
 29 needs.

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- 30 b. Increase knowledge and understanding of women's health
- 31 and women's health needs.
- 32 c. Support the provision of effective health services to
- 33 women.
- 34 d. Promote good health through preventive measures and the
- 35 reduction of risk factors that most imperil the health of women.
- 36 e. Apply, as a matter of standard practice, gender-based
- 37 analysis to programs and policies in the areas of the state's
- 38 health care system.
- 39 f. Provide for the development of tools, methods, and
- 40 training materials to assist in implementing the gender-impact
- 41 assessments across the state and to orient senior managers to
- 42 the requirements of this practice.
- 43 g. Consult with women's organizations and health
- 44 organizations interested in women's health on key policy issues.
- 45 h. Develop a plan to mobilize interdepartmental
- 46 collaboration in identifying objectives and initiatives that
- 47 will address socioeconomic issues of women related to health.
- 48 i. Address gender considerations in departmental work on
- 49 children to ensure that the distinct issues of girls and boys
- 50 will be taken into consideration in policies and programs.
- 51 j. Address gender considerations in departmental work on
- 52 the health and health system impacts of aging.
- 53 k. By January 15 of each year, provide the Governor,
- 54 President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of
- 55 Representatives a report with policy recommendations for
- 56 implementing the provisions of this paragraph.
- 57 2. Women's health issues shall be taken into consideration
- 58 in the annual budget planning of the Department of Health, the

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59 Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of
60 Education, and the Department of Elderly Affairs.

61 3. The inclusion of gender considerations and differential
62 impact shall be one of the criteria when assessing research and
63 demonstration proposals for which state funding is being sought.

64 4. Boards or advisory bodies that fall under the purview
65 of the Department of Health and the Department of Elderly
66 Affairs shall be encouraged to seek equal representation of
67 women and men and the inclusion of persons who are knowledgeable
68 and sensitive to gender and diversity issues.

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