

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to human immunodeficiency virus; amending  
 3           s. 381.0046, F.S.; increasing the number of HIV and AIDS  
 4           minority coordinators within the Department of Health;  
 5           requiring the department to expand its HIV/AIDS prevention  
 6           efforts in the state's minority communities and establish  
 7           linkage programs for HIV-positive persons in minority  
 8           communities and for HIV-positive inmates prior to their  
 9           release from jail; deleting obsolete provisions; requiring  
 10          the department to expand HIV counseling, testing, and  
 11          referral services; requiring programs under this section  
 12          to be consistent with recommendations of certain state and  
 13          federal organizations; providing an effective date.

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

19           WHEREAS, minorities, primarily African Americans and  
 20          Hispanic Americans, now constitute 63 percent of the more than  
 21          99,000 adult and pediatric AIDS cases reported in Florida since  
 22          the epidemic began in 1981, and

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

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

27           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that sustained,  
 28          comprehensive prevention efforts can have a substantial impact

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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2005

29 on slowing the course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and  
 30 WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to decrease the number of  
 31 deaths of minorities due to HIV/AIDS by increasing public  
 32 awareness, increasing early detection and treatment of HIV/AIDS  
 33 in the state's minority communities, and increasing the  
 34 coordination of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts in the  
 35 state's minority communities, and

36 WHEREAS, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the state's jails  
 37 exceeds the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the general population,  
 38 and

39 WHEREAS, recent advances in treatment for HIV/AIDS can  
 40 potentially reduce the number of opportunistic infections and  
 41 associated medical costs and delay the onset of death due to the  
 42 disease, and

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

46 WHEREAS, the Legislature authorized the creation of the  
 47 Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force to provide recommendations on  
 48 strategies to strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention, early  
 49 intervention, and treatment efforts in Florida's minority  
 50 communities, NOW, THEREFORE,

51  
 52 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

53  
 54 Section 1. Section 381.0046, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 55 to read:

56 381.0046 Statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign.--

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

72 (2) The Department of Health shall establish eight ~~four~~  
73 positions within the department for HIV and AIDS regional  
74 minority coordinators and one position for a statewide HIV and  
75 AIDS minority coordinator. The coordinators shall facilitate  
76 statewide efforts to implement and coordinate HIV and AIDS  
77 prevention and treatment programs. The statewide coordinator  
78 shall report directly to the chief of the Bureau of HIV and AIDS  
79 within the Department of Health.

80 (3) The Department of Health shall provide HIV and AIDS  
81 outreach programs in the state's minority communities to  
82 identify persons infected with HIV and AIDS. These programs  
83 shall address real and perceived barriers to HIV testing among  
84 the state's minority populations, ~~with assistance from the~~

85 ~~Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force and the statewide coordinator,~~  
 86 ~~plan and conduct a statewide Black Leadership Conference on HIV~~  
 87 ~~and AIDS by January 2000. The conference shall provide workshops~~  
 88 ~~for minority organizations in building skills and improving an~~  
 89 ~~organization's capacity to conduct HIV and AIDS prevention and~~  
 90 ~~treatment programs.~~

91 (4) The Department of Health shall provide a program to  
 92 ensure that persons who are HIV positive are linked with  
 93 prevention, care, and support services. This program shall be  
 94 provided in a culturally sensitive manner to promote prevention  
 95 among persons who are HIV positive and increase the acceptance  
 96 and delivery of care and support services in high-risk  
 97 communities.

98 (5) The Department of Health shall expand testing programs  
 99 for HIV, sexually transmissible diseases, and hepatitis in local  
 100 county jails. The department shall establish programs for  
 101 inmates who are HIV positive to ensure coordination and linkage  
 102 to treatment and secondary prevention messages upon their  
 103 release.

104 (6) To promote HIV testing among minority persons who are  
 105 at risk of infection, the department shall expand its HIV  
 106 counseling, testing, and referral services.

107 (7) Minority programs operating pursuant to this section  
 108 shall be consistent with the findings and recommendations of the  
 109 Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force and the State of Florida  
 110 HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Prevention Plan and the recommendations  
 111 of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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