

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to inflammatory bowel disease; creating
 3 the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Act; requiring the
 4 Department of Health to conduct an inflammatory bowel
 5 disease epidemiology study; requiring the Agency for
 6 Health Care Administration to conduct a chronic disease
 7 study on the coverage standards provided by Medicaid for
 8 inflammatory bowel disease therapies; requiring reports to
 9 the Governor and Legislature; providing an effective date.

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 11 WHEREAS, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, and
 12 ulcerative colitis (collectively known as IBD) are chronic
 13 disorders of the gastrointestinal tract which afflict
 14 approximately 47,000 Floridians, and

15 WHEREAS, inflammatory bowel disease can cause abdominal
 16 pain, fever, and rectal bleeding and complications may include
 17 arthritis, osteoporosis, anemia, liver disease, and colon
 18 cancer, and

19 WHEREAS, inflammatory bowel disease represents a major
 20 cause of morbidity from digestive illness and, although it is
 21 not fatal, inflammatory bowel disease is often devastating, NOW,
 22 THEREFORE,

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

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 26 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Inflammatory
 27 Bowel Disease Research Act."

28 Section 2. Studies; reports.--

29 (1) The Department of Health shall conduct an inflammatory
30 bowel disease epidemiology study. The goal of the study is to
31 gain a better understanding of the prevalence of the disease in
32 the state, the unique demographic characteristics of the patient
33 population, and the role that environmental and genetic factors
34 play in the development of the disease. The department shall
35 submit a report of its findings to the Governor, the President
36 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
37 by January 1, 2006.

38 (2) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall
39 conduct a chronic disease study on Medicaid coverage for
40 therapies required by patients with inflammatory bowel disease,
41 such as ostomy supplies, parenteral nutrition, enteral
42 nutrition, medically necessary food products, and therapies
43 approved by the Food and Drug Administration for Crohn's disease
44 and ulcerative colitis. The study will take into consideration
45 the appropriate outpatient or home health care settings,
46 identify gaps in Medicaid coverage that impact the health and
47 quality of life for inflammatory bowel disease patients, and
48 empower the inflammatory bowel disease community to pursue
49 appropriate changes in the Medicaid reimbursement policy. The
50 agency shall submit a report of its findings to the Governor,
51 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
52 Representatives by January 1, 2006.

53 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.