

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to Crohn's and Colitis disease research;
3 creating the Crohn's and Colitis Disease Research Act;
4 requiring the Department of Health to conduct an
5 inflammatory bowel disease epidemiology study with the
6 University of Florida College of Public Health and Health
7 Professions; requiring the Agency for Health Care
8 Administration to conduct a chronic disease study on the
9 coverage standards provided by Medicaid for inflammatory
10 bowel disease therapies; providing for membership in a
11 study group; requiring reports to the Governor and
12 Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

18 WHEREAS, inflammatory bowel disease can cause abdominal
19 pain, fever, and rectal bleeding and complications may include
20 arthritis, osteoporosis, anemia, liver disease, and colon
21 cancer, and

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

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27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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29 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Crohn's and
30 Colitis Disease Research Act."

31 Section 2. Studies; reports.--

32 (1) The Department of Health, in conjunction with the
33 University of Florida College of Public Health and Health
34 Professions, shall conduct an inflammatory bowel disease
35 epidemiology study. The goal of the study is to gain a better
36 understanding of the prevalence of the disease in the state, the
37 unique demographic characteristics of the patient population,
38 and the role that environmental factors and family history play
39 in the development of the disease. The Department of Health is
40 authorized to convene a study group for the purpose of
41 conducting an epidemiological study of inflammatory bowel
42 disease in order to collect demographic information on the
43 characteristics of the patient population affected by this
44 disease. The study group shall consist of a representative of
45 the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, a representative
46 from one or more of the major universities researching this
47 disease, a representative from the Agency for Health Care
48 Administration, a representative from the Department of Health,
49 including department epidemiologists, a representative from
50 medical providers, one member of the House of Representatives,
51 one member of the Senate, and any other individual the
52 department considers appropriate to participate in the study
53 group. The department shall submit a report of its findings to
54 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
55 the House of Representatives by February 1, 2006.

56 (2) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall
57 conduct a chronic disease study on Medicaid coverage for
58 therapies required by patients with inflammatory bowel disease,
59 such as ostomy supplies, parenteral nutrition, enteral
60 nutrition, medically necessary food products, and therapies
61 approved by the Food and Drug Administration for Crohn's disease
62 and ulcerative colitis. The study will take into consideration
63 the appropriate outpatient or home health care settings,
64 identify gaps in Medicaid coverage that impact the health and
65 quality of life for inflammatory bowel disease patients, and
66 empower the inflammatory bowel disease community to pursue
67 appropriate changes in the Medicaid reimbursement policy. The
68 agency shall submit a report of its findings to the Governor,
69 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
70 Representatives by February 1, 2006.

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