

HB 1269

2007

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to infant mortality; providing legislative
3 intent relating to the black infant health practice
4 initiative; providing definitions; providing objectives;
5 providing for administration of the initiative; requiring
6 a local community to develop a team to serve as a part of
7 a statewide practice collaborative; requiring healthy
8 start coalitions to conduct case reviews; requiring
9 certain public universities or colleges to provide
10 technical assistance, to assist in determining certain
11 criteria, and to present findings and make
12 recommendations; requiring the Department of Health to
13 distribute funding to the coalitions; providing duties of
14 each participating coalition; requiring the department to
15 award grants; requiring the department to conduct an
16 annual evaluation of the initiative; requiring each
17 coalition to submit a report to the Governor, the
18 Legislature, and the department; providing immunity from
19 liability to participating coalitions; requiring the
20 department to adopt rules; providing a timeframe for
21 reviewing cases; providing an appropriation; providing an
22 effective date.

23
24 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that pregnancy, birth,
25 and infant health outcomes are internationally recognized as
26 measures of health for a community, as these outcomes are
27 indicators of population sustenance, growth, and quality of
28 life, and

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

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29 WHEREAS, the Legislature also recognizes that infant
 30 mortality disproportionately affects African-American infants,
 31 as the resident infant mortality rate in 2005 for nonwhites is
 32 12.5 per 1,000 live births, which is more than double the infant
 33 mortality rate for whites, which is 5.3 per 1,000 live births,
 34 and

35 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that a continued effort
 36 to identify the causes of racial disparities in infant mortality
 37 benefits all citizens of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

38
 39 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

40
 41 Section 1. Black infant health practice initiative.--

42 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the
 43 Legislature to create a black infant health practice initiative.
 44 The initiative shall include reviews of infant mortality in
 45 select counties in this state in order to identify factors in
 46 the health and social services systems contributing to higher
 47 mortality rates among African-American infants. It is also the
 48 intent of the Legislature that the initiative produce
 49 recommendations on how to address the factors identified by the
 50 reviews as contributing to these higher infant mortality rates.

51 (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

52 (a) "Coalition" means a federal or local healthy start
 53 coalition or consortium.

54 (b) "Department" means the Department of Health.

55 (c) "FIMR" means a fetal and infant mortality review
 56 committee.

57 (d) "Infant mortality" means the death of a live-born
 58 infant within 364 days after the infant's birth.

59 (e) "Infant mortality rate" means the number of infant
 60 deaths per 1,000 annual live births.

61 (3) OBJECTIVES.--The objectives of the initiative include:

62 (a) Determining the significant social, economic,
 63 cultural, safety, and health system factors that are associated
 64 with racial disparities in infant mortality rates through a
 65 practice collaborative approach using perinatal periods of risk
 66 and modified fetal infant mortality reviews.

67 (b) Developing a series of interventions and policies that
 68 address these factors to improve the service systems and
 69 community resources.

70 (c) Participating in the implementation of community-based
 71 interventions and policies that address racial disparities in
 72 infant mortality rates.

73 (d) Assessing the progress of interventions.

74 (4) ADMINISTRATION.--The black infant health practice
 75 initiative shall be administered through a collaboration among
 76 the department, federal and state healthy start coalitions, and
 77 public universities or colleges having expertise in public
 78 health. A local community shall develop an interdisciplinary
 79 team to serve as part of a statewide practice collaborative.
 80 Both perinatal periods of risk and fetal infant mortality
 81 reviews may be used. A case review shall be conducted by each
 82 participating healthy start coalition using professional in-
 83 house staff or through contracts with an outside professional.
 84 Public universities or colleges having expertise in public

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85 health shall provide technical assistance in developing a
86 standard research methodology based on the fetal and infant
87 mortality review method. Public universities or colleges having
88 expertise in public health shall assist each participating
89 coalition in determining the selection of comparison groups,
90 identifying data collection and housing issues, and presenting
91 findings and recommendations. A single methodology for the
92 reviews conducted through the initiative shall be used by each
93 participating coalition. The department shall distribute funding
94 to each coalition that participates in the initiative through
95 annual grants that are subject to specific appropriations by the
96 Legislature.

97 (5) FUNCTIONS OF THE INITIATIVE.--Each participating
98 coalition shall:

99 (a) Develop an interdisciplinary team to oversee the
100 process in its local community.

101 (b) Use perinatal periods of risk methodology when
102 appropriate to examine infant deaths in its community.

103 (c) Use a modified FIMR approach to examine infant deaths
104 in its community by:

105 1. Creating a case review FIMR team that may include
106 obstetricians, neonatologists, perinatologists, pathologists,
107 registered nurses, social workers, hospital and clinic
108 administrators, social service agencies, researchers, citizens
109 and consumers, and other experts considered necessary to conduct
110 a standardized review of infant mortality.

111 2. Hiring or contracting with professional staff that may
112 include licensed nurses and social workers to abstract and

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113 present individual case reviews that omit identifying
114 information regarding infant deaths compared to live births to
115 the case review team.

116 3. Developing abstracts of sample infant mortalities and
117 comparative live births that omit identifying information and
118 that identify social, economic, cultural, safety, and health
119 system factors that are associated with racial disparities in
120 infant mortality rates. The number of abstracted cases that must
121 be conducted by each participating coalition shall be determined
122 by a standard research methodology developed in conjunction with
123 a public university or college having expertise in public
124 health.

125 4. Presenting abstracts that omit identifying information
126 to its case review team at least quarterly for their review and
127 discussion.

128 (d) Develop findings and recommendations for interventions
129 and policy changes to reduce racial disparities in infant
130 mortality.

131 (6) GRANT AWARDS.--The department shall award annual
132 grants through a request-for-proposal process that is subject to
133 specific appropriations by the Legislature. The department shall
134 award five grants to coalitions representing urban counties and
135 five grants to coalitions representing rural counties. Priority
136 of grant awards shall be given to those coalitions representing
137 counties having a nonwhite infant mortality rate at least two
138 times greater than the white infant mortality rate and at least
139 40 nonwhite infant deaths annually between 2003 and 2005 for
140 urban counties and five nonwhite infant deaths annually between

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141 2003 and 2005 for rural counties.

142 (7) EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS.--The department shall conduct
143 an annual evaluation of the implementation of the initiative
144 describing which areas are participating in the initiative, the
145 number of reviews conducted by each participating coalition,
146 grant balances, and recommendations for modifying the
147 initiative. A participating coalition shall produce a report on
148 its collective findings and recommendations by January 1, 2010,
149 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
150 House of Representatives, and the Secretary of Health.

151 (8) IMMUNITY.--Each participating coalition, its case
152 review team members, and professional staff are immune from
153 liability pursuant to s. 766.101, Florida Statutes.

154 (9) RULEMAKING.--The department shall adopt rules,
155 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes,
156 necessary to implement this section.

157 (10) IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.--The department shall
158 release a request for proposals in a manner that will allow each
159 participating coalition to begin reviewing cases no later than
160 January 1, 2008.

161 Section 2. The sum of \$1 million is appropriated from the
162 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Health for the 2007-
163 2008 fiscal year to implement the black infant health practice
164 initiative and to fund one full-time equivalent position to
165 carry out the provisions of this act.

166 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.