

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide limited government, Promote Personal Responsibility, Empower Families --- This bill emphasizes the role of DOH in promoting wellness and preventing disease among Floridians and their families. By providing health education and wellness information, citizens will be better able to achieve their own wellness goals and adopt healthier lifestyles for themselves and their families.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

According to the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity,¹

- Two-thirds of premature deaths in the U.S. are due to poor nutrition, physical inactivity and tobacco use.
- Over the last 25 years, obesity rates doubled among U.S. adults and children and tripled in teens.
- Poor diet and inactivity contribute significantly to four out of the six leading causes of death --- heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes.

Many of these deaths can be prevented and the quality of life enhanced for millions of people if they can be convinced to exercise regularly, eat nutritious foods, avoid tobacco, and control chronic diseases.

The designation of "Surgeon General" is used to identify the chief physician of the public health corps of a state or nation, and, as the Surgeon General of the United States, America's chief health educator.²

HB 1343 provides an additional duty to DOH --- that the department will promote health and wellness and disease prevention initiatives. It renames the head of DOH "Florida Surgeon General" and directs the Division of Statutory Revision to make necessary conforming changes throughout the statute to reflect the name change.

The bill is effective July 1, 2007.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 20.43, F. S.; provides for additional duty of DOH; designates head of DOH as Florida Surgeon General.

Section 2: Amends s. 381.0606(2), F.S.; conforms name.

Section 3: Directs the Division of Statutory Revision to change references to head of DOH as provided in the bill.

Section 4: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2007.

¹ National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity, available online at http://www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/NANA_advocates_national_policies.pdf

² See <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/>

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not appear to require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, nor reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

- The Sunshine State must be a healthy state.
- Today, we face many challenges.
 - For example, from 1997 to 2004, diabetes has increased by 40%.

- Thousands of Florida's children have early stages of diabetes without diagnosis, and they will face serious health problems by the time they are 30.
- Florida faces issues of tobacco and substance abuse, obesity, health disparities and other preventable diseases.

- We must be aggressive in tackling these problems and we must work together - - as a Government and as a people - - to improve the lifelong health of all Floridians.
- To do so, Florida needs a strong advocate and leading voice for public health promotion and disease prevention efforts.
- House Bill 1343 proposes to refocus the Department of Health to be headed by the State Surgeon General as a leading advocate for these issues.
- Florida's State Surgeon General will also work to build partnerships between Floridians, public and private institutions, communities and schools to forward important health initiatives.
- Florida will become the second state in the nation to name a State Surgeon General and through this we will demonstrate our commitment to public health and disease prevention. (Michigan is the only other state with a State Surgeon General)
- I ask each of you to support HB 1343

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 20, 2007, the Health Innovation Committee adopted one amendment. The amendment:

- Revised the purposes of the Department of Health to include the promotion of health and wellness and disease prevention initiatives, including promotion of immunization practices in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
- Revised the purposes of the Department of Health to include that the department provide leadership, in cooperation with medical schools and the health care community, in assessing and addressing the adequacy of Florida's physician and health professional workforce to address the state's health care access needs.

The bill was reported favorably with one amendment.