

By Senator Ring

32-639-07

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to lupus; providing legislative intent; requiring the southeast Florida chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America to establish lupus life centers; providing requirements for the centers; requiring the chapter to establish an advisory council; providing requirements for the members of the advisory council; authorizing the Department of Health to contract with the chapter; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Lupus Life Centers Program.--

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature to reduce the billions of dollars expended annually in social security disability, Medicare, Medicaid, and private payments on behalf of lupus patients by providing prevention and supportive services and public education concerning early detection in 11 high-incidence counties in southeast Florida, which are Brevard, Broward, Collier, Miami-Dade, Hendry, Indian River, Martin, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie Counties.

(2) The southeast Florida chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America shall expand its services by establishing a Lupus Life Center in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties using professional staff that provides, in an eleven-county area, educational training and supportive services to individuals who have lupus and their families. The center shall also provide public education by offering

1 seminars and continuing education for social services and
2 medical professionals and shall operate a toll-free telephone
3 number that may be accessed by patients throughout the state.

4 (3) The southeast Florida chapter of the Lupus
5 Foundation of America shall establish an advisory council
6 consisting of at least 14 members which shall monitor and
7 provide guidance to the lupus life centers. The council shall
8 include the directors of the health departments of Broward
9 County, Miami-Dade County, and Palm Beach County or their
10 designees and at least one professional from each county being
11 served by the lupus life centers.

12 (4) The Department of Health may contract with the
13 southeast Florida chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America
14 to administer this section.

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

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19 SENATE SUMMARY

20 Requires the southeast Florida chapter of the Lupus
21 Foundation of America to establish lupus life centers.
22 Provides requirements for the centers. Requires the
23 chapter to establish an advisory council. Provides
24 requirements for the membership of the advisory council.
25 Authorizes the Department of Health to contract with the
26 chapter.
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