

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Health Policy Committee

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BILL: SB 894

INTRODUCER: Senator Dawson

SUBJECT: Public Health

DATE: April 11, 2008

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Garner	Wilson	HP	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			HA	
3.			RC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

**I. Summary:**

The bill expresses the Legislature’s intent to revise laws relating to public health.

This bill creates one undesignated section of law.

**II. Present Situation:**

Title XXIX of the Florida Statutes is titled “PUBLIC HEALTH” and consists of the following chapters:

- Chapter 381 – Public health: general provisions,
- Chapter 382 – Vital statistics,
- Chapter 383 – Maternal and infant health care,
- Chapter 384 – Sexually transmissible diseases,
- Chapter 385 – Chronic diseases,
- Chapter 386 – Particular conditions affecting public health,
  - Sanitary nuisances, part I
  - Indoor air: tobacco smoke, part II
- Chapter 388 – Mosquito control.

Section 381.001, F.S., declares the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Health is responsible for the state’s public health system which shall be designed to promote, protect, and improve the health of all people in the state. The mission of the state’s public health system is to foster the conditions in which people can be healthy, by assessing state and community health

needs and priorities through data collection, epidemiologic studies, and community participation; by developing comprehensive public health policies and objectives aimed at improving the health status of people in the state; and by ensuring essential health care and an environment which enhances the health of the individual and the community.

It is also the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Health, in carrying out the mission of public health, focus attention on identifying, assessing, and controlling the presence and spread of communicable diseases; on monitoring and regulating factors in the environment which may impair the public's health, with particular attention to preventing contamination of drinking water, the air people breathe, and the food people consume; and ensuring availability of and access to preventive and primary health care, including, but not limited to, acute and episodic care, prenatal and postpartum care, child health, family planning, school health, chronic disease prevention, child and adult immunization, dental health, nutrition, and health education and promotion services. The functions of the Department of Health also include: state laboratory and pharmacy services; the state vital statistics system; the Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis; recruitment, retention, and development of preventive and primary health care professionals and managers; and licensure of health care practitioners.

Section 20.43, F.S., creates the Department of Health, specifies the purposes of the department, outlines the organizational structure of the department, and requires the department to plan and administer its public health programs through its county health departments. The State Surgeon General and State Health Officer is the head of the department.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill expresses the Legislature's intent to revise laws relating to public health.

The effective date of the law is upon becoming a law.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

The provisions of this bill have no impact on municipalities and the counties under the requirements of Article VII, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

The provisions of this bill have no impact on public records or open meetings issues under the requirements of Art. I, s. 24(a) and (b) of the Florida Constitution.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

The provisions of this bill have no impact on the trust fund restrictions under the requirements of Article III, Subsection 19(f) of the Florida Constitution.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.