

HB 235

2009

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to women's health; requiring the  
3           Department of Health to create a pilot program in Pasco,  
4           Duval, and Miami-Dade Counties to provide health screening  
5           for certain women; prescribing services; requiring  
6           periodic assessment of participants in the program;  
7           requiring the department to submit a report to the  
8           Legislature; providing for expiration of the program;  
9           providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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11           WHEREAS, heart disease, stroke, and other forms of  
12           cardiovascular disease are the number one cause of death for  
13           women each year, and

14           WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease kills more women annually  
15           than the next five leading causes of death combined, which  
16           include all forms of cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases,  
17           Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and accidents, and

18           WHEREAS, despite the statistics, many patients and health  
19           care providers alike tend to think of heart disease as a disease  
20           that primarily afflicts men, and

21           WHEREAS, in February 2004, the American Heart Association  
22           began the vigorous "Go Red for Women" public awareness campaign  
23           and a survey conducted in 2007 by the American Heart Association  
24           found that 43 percent of women are still not aware that heart  
25           disease is the leading cause of death among women, and

26           WHEREAS, the WISEWOMAN program, administered by the Centers  
27           for Disease Control and Prevention, provides low-income,  
28           underinsured, or uninsured women between 40 and 64 years of age

29 | with chronic disease risk factor screening, lifestyle  
 30 | intervention, and referral services in an effort to prevent  
 31 | cardiovascular disease and promote healthy lifestyles, and

32 |       WHEREAS, WISEWOMAN programs provide standard preventive  
 33 | services, including blood pressure and cholesterol testing and  
 34 | lifestyle programs targeting poor nutrition, physical  
 35 | inactivity, and smoking, and

36 |       WHEREAS, Florida is currently not participating in the  
 37 | WISEWOMAN program due to a lack of federal funding, and

38 |       WHEREAS, the best chance for women in this state to reduce  
 39 | their mortality rates due to cardiovascular disease is through  
 40 | education and prevention, NOW, THEREFORE,

41 |

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

43 |

44 |       Section 1. Cardiovascular screening and risk-reduction  
 45 | pilot program.--

46 |       (1) The Department of Health shall develop a  
 47 | cardiovascular disease screening and lifestyle intervention  
 48 | pilot program in Pasco, Duval, and Miami-Dade Counties for low-  
 49 | income, underinsured, and uninsured women between 40 and 64  
 50 | years of age, inclusive, at risk for heart disease, diabetes,  
 51 | and stroke.

52 |       (2) The department shall develop the program based on the  
 53 | federal WISEWOMAN program administered by the Centers for  
 54 | Disease Control and Prevention. The pilot program shall employ  
 55 | specified measures to gauge the impact and outcome of the  
 56 | program. These measures shall include a list of the educational

HB 235

2009

57 materials being distributed, the number of followup visits per  
58 woman, an evaluation of the use of progress markers to reduce  
59 risk factors, and a research and evaluation component.

60 (3) The department shall prepare an annual report and  
61 submit it to the Legislature by January 31 of each year. The  
62 annual report shall compare the cardiovascular health of women  
63 in the pilot program to available data on the cardiovascular  
64 health of women nationally. The report shall include a fiscal  
65 analysis and a recommendation outlining the benefits and costs  
66 of expanding the pilot program throughout the state after the  
67 program has been in existence for 3 years. The pilot program  
68 shall expire July 1, 2012.

69 Section 2. The sum of \$500,000 is appropriated from the  
70 funds collected under s. 210.02, Florida Statutes, to the  
71 Department of Health to implement the pilot program created  
72 under section 1.

73 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.