

By Senator Joyner

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Office of Minority Health;  
3           creating s. 381.04016, F.S.; providing legislative  
4           intent; providing the duties of the Office of Minority  
5           Health; requiring the Office of Minority Health to  
6           submit an annual report to the Governor and  
7           Legislature; requiring consideration of minority  
8           health issues and race in state policy and planning;  
9           providing for responsibility and coordination;  
10          providing an effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14           Section 1. Section 381.04016, Florida Statutes, is created  
15 to read:

16           381.04016 Minority Health Strategy; legislative intent;  
17 duties of Office of Minority Health; other state agency duties.-

18           (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.-The Legislature recognizes that  
19 despite state investments in health care, racial and ethnic  
20 populations in this state continue to have significantly poorer  
21 health outcomes when compared to nonHispanic whites. The  
22 Legislature further finds that the health care needs of  
23 minorities are diverse and that delivery of services, research,  
24 and public policy must take into account the distinct  
25 characteristics of minority health issues. Priority shall be  
26 given to improve the overall health status of minority men,  
27 women, and children through research and education specific to  
28 minority health issues. The Legislature recognizes the  
29 importance of understanding why there is a large disparity

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30 between minority groups with regard to awareness, diagnosis, and  
31 treatment of certain diseases and also recognizes that  
32 biomedical research is the key to finding these answers. Such  
33 research has important implications for all minority individuals  
34 in terms of clinical practice and disease manifestation and  
35 prevention. The Legislature recognizes that as the state's  
36 population ages and life expectancy for minority individuals  
37 continues to rise, it is of the utmost importance for the  
38 Legislature to encourage strategies designed to reduce health  
39 disparities, including, but not limited to, addressing the array  
40 of health and social issues, ensuring comprehensive elimination  
41 of health disparities, and promoting health equity to assure  
42 access to affordable and adequate health care that meets  
43 specific health needs with regard to race and ethnicity. The  
44 Legislature further finds and declares that the culturally  
45 sensitive design and delivery of health care services and  
46 medical education of all health care practitioners shall be  
47 based on the principle that health care needs are diverse, and  
48 cultural competency training and medical education are essential  
49 for effectively treating members of minority populations.

50 (2) DUTIES.—The Office of Minority Health in the Department  
51 of Health shall:

52 (a) Ensure that the state's policies and programs are  
53 responsive to minority differences and health needs across the  
54 life span.

55 (b) Administer the distribution of and provide oversight of  
56 contract management for all funds designated for reducing racial  
57 and ethnic health disparities and promote optimal health in  
58 minority populations.

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59 (c) Organize an interagency Committee for Minority Health  
60 for the purpose of integrating minority health programs within  
61 current operating and service delivery structures and setting  
62 priorities for minority health. This committee shall be  
63 comprised of the heads or directors of state agencies that have  
64 programs affecting minority health, including, but not limited  
65 to, the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care  
66 Administration, the Department of Education, the Department of  
67 Elderly Affairs, the Department of Corrections, the Office of  
68 Insurance Regulation within the Department of Financial  
69 Services, and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

70 (d) Assess the health status of minorities in the state  
71 through the collection and review of health data and trends.

72 (e) Review and provide recommendations on the state's  
73 insurance code as it relates to minority health issues.

74 (f) Work with medical school curriculum committees to  
75 develop course requirements on minority health and promote  
76 clinical practice guidelines that are specific to minority  
77 issues and cultural competency.

78 (g) Organize statewide activities during Minority Health  
79 Month.

80 (h) Promote research, treatment, and collaboration on  
81 minority health issues at universities and medical centers in  
82 the state.

83 (i) Promote employer incentives for prevention and wellness  
84 programs that emphasize minority health programs.

85 (j) Serve as the primary state resource for the  
86 coordination of minority health information.

87 (k) Develop a statewide minority health plan that promotes

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88 collaborative approaches to meeting the health needs of minority  
89 populations. The plan shall:

90 1. Identify activities designed to reduce the number of  
91 premature deaths in minority populations and appropriate  
92 resources to implement those activities, including:

93 a. Providing specific strategies for reducing the mortality  
94 rate of minority individuals.

95 b. Listing conditions that may cause or contribute to  
96 disease in minority populations and the best methods by which to  
97 identify, control, and prevent these conditions from developing.

98 c. Identifying the best methods for ensuring an increase in  
99 the percentage of minority individuals in the state who receive  
100 screening and diagnostic testing.

101 2. Provide recommendations for the development of practice  
102 guidelines for addressing disease in minority populations.

103 3. Provide recommendations for reducing health disparities  
104 and promoting optimal health among all racial and ethnic groups.

105 4. Coordinate with existing program plans that address  
106 minority health issues.

107 (l) Promote clinical practice guidelines specific to  
108 minority individuals.

109 (m) Serve as the state's liaison with other states and  
110 federal agencies and programs to develop best practices in  
111 minority health.

112 (n) Develop a statewide, web-based clearinghouse on  
113 minority health issues and resources.

114 (o) Promote public awareness campaigns and education on the  
115 health needs of minority individuals.

116 (p) By January 15 of each year, provide the Governor, the

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117 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
118 Representatives a report containing policy recommendations for  
119 implementing the provisions of this section.

120 (3) DUTIES OF OTHER STATE AGENCIES.—

121 (a) Minority health issues shall be taken into  
122 consideration in the annual planning of the Department of  
123 Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the  
124 Department of Elderly Affairs, the Department of Corrections,  
125 and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

126 (b) The inclusion of health issues concerning minority  
127 populations and dissimilar outcomes shall be among the criteria  
128 included when assessing research and demonstration proposals for  
129 which state funding is being sought from the Department of  
130 Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the  
131 Department of Elderly Affairs.

132 (c) Boards or advisory bodies that fall under the purview  
133 of the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care  
134 Administration, or the Department of Elderly Affairs shall be  
135 encouraged to seek equal representation of minority women and  
136 men and include members who are knowledgeable and sensitive to  
137 minority diversity issues.

138 (4) RESPONSIBILITY AND COORDINATION.—The Office of Minority  
139 Health and the department shall direct and carry out the  
140 provisions of this section and may work with the Executive  
141 Office of the Governor and other state agencies to carry out  
142 their duties and responsibilities under this section.

143 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.