

HB 669

2010

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to cigarette surcharge revenue uses;  
3 amending s. 210.011, F.S.; reducing the amount of  
4 cigarette surcharge revenues deposited into the Health  
5 Care Trust Fund; appropriating a portion of cigarette  
6 surcharge revenues to the Department of Children and  
7 Family Services for certain purposes; prohibiting the use  
8 of such portion to supplant certain general revenue funds  
9 allocated to the department; providing an effective date.

10  
11 WHEREAS, compared to the general population, individuals  
12 with mental illness have higher rates of chronic health problems  
13 and premature death due to long-term tobacco use, and

14 WHEREAS, the life span of an individual with mental illness  
15 is, on average, 20 to 25 years shorter than that of the average  
16 American, and most of these individuals die from smoking-related  
17 diseases, and

18 WHEREAS, it is estimated that 200,000 of the 435,000 annual  
19 deaths from smoking in the United States occur among individuals  
20 with chronic mental illness and substance use disorders, and

21 WHEREAS, compared to the general population, the rate of  
22 cardiovascular disease is 2.3 times higher, the rate of  
23 respiratory disease is 3.2 times higher, and the rate of lung  
24 cancer is 3 times higher among individuals with mental illness,  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, tobacco use by individuals with mental illness is  
27 a major public health issue that needs immediate attention  
28 through focused cessation programs, and

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29 WHEREAS, 75 percent of individuals with mental illness  
 30 smoke 3 to 4 times the rate of the general population, consuming  
 31 44 percent of all cigarettes consumed in the United States, and

32 WHEREAS, Florida's public mental health system is severely  
 33 underfunded and currently ranks 49th in per capita spending on  
 34 mental health care, NOW, THEREFORE,

35  
 36 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

37  
 38 Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 210.011, Florida  
 39 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (10) is added to that  
 40 section, to read:

41 210.011 Cigarette surcharge levied; collection.—

42 (9) Ninety-five percent of the revenue produced from the  
 43 surcharge levied under this section shall be deposited into the  
 44 Health Care Trust Fund within the Agency for Health Care  
 45 Administration.

46 (10) Five percent of the revenue produced from the  
 47 surcharge levied under this section shall be appropriated to the  
 48 Department of Children and Family Services for the purpose of  
 49 expanding community-based mental health services and providing  
 50 programs to reduce the rate of smoking among persons with mental  
 51 illness. These funds shall not be used to supplant general  
 52 revenue funds allocated to the Department of Children and Family  
 53 Services as of July 1, 2009.

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