

HB 1085

2011

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to women's health; creating the  
3           Gynecologic and Ovarian Cancer Education and Awareness Act  
4           of 2011; amending s. 381.04015, F.S.; establishing the  
5           Gynecologic and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Program in the  
6           Department of Health; requiring the Department of Health  
7           to disseminate information on gynecologic cancers to the  
8           extent that funding is available; directing the department  
9           to establish a Women's Gynecologic Cancer Information  
10          Advisory Council; providing an effective date.

11  
12          WHEREAS, one of the primary functions of the Department of  
13          Health is to reduce the number of women dying prematurely from  
14          cancer and other deadly diseases through education, research,  
15          better health care, and other means, and

16          WHEREAS, a coordinated education and awareness program  
17          developed by the department is needed to reduce the number of  
18          women in the state who die from gynecologic cancers, and

19          WHEREAS, each year in Florida more than 4,500 women are  
20          diagnosed with and 1,700 women die from gynecologic cancers, and

21          WHEREAS, ovarian cancer causes more deaths than any other  
22          gynecologic cancer and ranks fourth as a cause of cancer deaths  
23          among women in the state, and

24          WHEREAS, when ovarian cancer is found and treated in its  
25          earliest stages, the 5-year survival rate is 95 percent, and

26          WHEREAS, most women who suffer from ovarian cancer are not  
27          diagnosed until the later stages when the disease has spread and  
28          the 5-year survival rate is decreased to 46 percent, and

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29 WHEREAS, approximately half of deaths from ovarian cancer  
 30 occur in women over the age of 55 and approximately one-quarter  
 31 of deaths from ovarian cancer occur in women between 35 and 54  
 32 years of age, and

33 WHEREAS, because early detection and treatment often mean  
 34 the difference between life and death, it is important to  
 35 increase awareness of the factors that put women at a higher  
 36 risk for gynecologic cancers and educate women regarding the  
 37 symptoms of ovarian and other forms of gynecologic cancers and  
 38 the range of treatment options available to them, NOW,  
 39 THEREFORE,

40

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

42

43 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Gynecologic and  
 44 Ovarian Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2011."

45 Section 2. Subsection (3) and (4) of section 381.04015,  
 46 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) and (5),  
 47 respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to that section  
 48 to read:

49 381.04015 Women's Health Strategy; legislative intent;  
 50 duties of Officer of Women's Health Strategy; other state agency  
 51 duties.—

52 (3) The Gynecologic and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Program  
 53 is established in the Department of Health. The department  
 54 shall:

55 (a) To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose  
 56 or existing federal or state resources are made available to the

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57 department, place priority on providing information to  
58 consumers, patients, and health care providers regarding women's  
59 gynecologic cancers, including the signs and symptoms, risk  
60 factors, benefits of early detection through appropriate  
61 diagnostic testing, and treatment options. The department shall  
62 publish this information on its website. To the extent feasible,  
63 the department's website shall include a link directly to the  
64 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website for in-  
65 depth gynecologic health information. The information may also  
66 be offered in audio, video, electronic, or other media format.

67 (b) Develop and provide public service announcements and  
68 advertisements that emphasize the early warning signs and risk  
69 factors associated with gynecologic cancers, indicate how  
70 educational materials can be obtained, and encourage women to  
71 discuss the risks of gynecologic cancers with their health care  
72 providers. The department shall seek to obtain federal and state  
73 resources to develop the public service announcements or may use  
74 public service announcements developed by others, including, but  
75 not limited to, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
76 which are provided to the department for this purpose.

77 (c) Formulate and execute a distribution plan and strategy  
78 to disseminate gynecologic cancer educational materials and  
79 information. The plan shall recommend and encourage individual  
80 public health facilities to obtain gynecologic cancer  
81 educational materials made available by federal, state, and  
82 other resources and display and distribute those materials to  
83 their consumers and patients. The plan shall also recommend and  
84 encourage primary care physicians, gynecologists, private health

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85 care facilities, and hospitals to adopt procedures to display  
86 and distribute gynecologic cancer educational materials to their  
87 consumers and patients, including, but not limited to, those  
88 materials made available by federal, state, and other resources.

89 (d) By October 1, 2011, appoint a Women's Gynecologic  
90 Cancer Information Advisory Council to be chaired by the Officer  
91 of Women's Health Strategy or other appropriate officer of the  
92 department as determined by the Deputy Secretary for Health. The  
93 council shall meet at least biannually. Membership on the  
94 council shall include health care professionals, health care  
95 providers, consumers, patients, and representatives of nonprofit  
96 organizations that concentrate on gynecologic cancers, and other  
97 appropriate representatives as determined by the department.  
98 Members of the council shall receive no compensation for the  
99 performance of their duties under this subsection, but shall be  
100 reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred while  
101 engaged in the performance of those duties.

102 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.