

HB 1201

2011

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to public health; creating the Expedited  
3       Partner Therapy Pilot Project in Duval and Gadsden  
4       Counties; providing an exemption from specified rules and  
5       statutory requirements for the pilot program; providing  
6       for training of physicians and patient education;  
7       requiring the pilot project to be funded by existing  
8       revenues; providing for use of funds; providing an  
9       effective date.

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11       WHEREAS, expedited partner therapy offers a cost-effective  
12       treatment tool for breaking the cycle of chlamydia and gonorrhea  
13       that infects thousands of women age 15 through 34 annually who  
14       are thus at a higher risk for poor birth outcomes if they become  
15       pregnant, and

16       WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
17       recommends expedited partner therapy as a treatment option and  
18       has developed specific guidelines for its use, and

19       WHEREAS, Gadsden and Duval Counties rank 1st and 3rd,  
20       respectively, in the state in reported cases of sexually  
21       transmitted infections experiencing significant increases in  
22       both chlamydia and gonorrhea over the last 5 years, particularly  
23       among women of childbearing age, and

24       WHEREAS, the state's current approach to tracking and  
25       treating partners has not been successful in reducing these  
26       rates, and

27       WHEREAS, the proposed pilot project is projected to cost  
28       \$70,000 annually and reach approximately 4,000 persons and their

HB 1201

2011

29 partners and offers a cost-effective strategy for testing  
30 expedited partner therapy and evaluating its impact in two  
31 counties with significantly high incidences of sexually  
32 transmitted infections and infant mortality, NOW, THEREFORE,  
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34 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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36 Section 1. Expedited partner therapy pilot project.—The  
37 Department of Health shall develop and implement an expedited  
38 partner therapy pilot project in Duval and Gadsden Counties to  
39 address high rates of sexually transmitted infections. The pilot  
40 project shall exempt providers in those counties from the  
41 requirements of ss. 384.27 and 465.023(1)(h), Florida Statutes,  
42 and Rule 64B8-9.014, Florida Administrative Code. Under the  
43 proposed pilot project, a physician is authorized to provide a  
44 single dose of medication provided by the county health  
45 department to infected patients for use by their partners.  
46 Expedited partner therapy is not mandated under the pilot  
47 project but is offered as a treatment option. The pilot project  
48 shall provide training to physicians on the Centers for Disease  
49 Control and Prevention expedited partner therapy guidelines and  
50 adapt provider and patient education material on expedited  
51 partner therapy developed by the state of Texas, which recently  
52 approved expedited partner therapy as a treatment option. The  
53 cost of the pilot project may be covered by identifying  
54 resources within existing revenues. Funding shall be used to  
55 purchase needed medication, provide educational material for

HB 1201

2011

56 | physicians and patients, and evaluate the progress of the pilot  
57 | project.

58 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.