

By Senator Braynon

33-02422-11

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

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30 expedited partner therapy and evaluating its impact in two
31 counties that have 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
56 physicians and patients, and evaluate the progress of the pilot
57 project.

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