

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 in state policy and planning; requiring  
9           the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care  
10          Administration, the Department of Elderly Affairs, the  
11          Department of Corrections, and the Department of  
12          Juvenile Justice to take minority health issues into  
13          consideration in their annual planning; requiring that  
14          boards or advisory boards of the Department of Health,  
15          the Agency for Health Care Administration, or the  
16          Department of Elderly Affairs seek equal  
17          representation of certain members; providing for  
18          responsibility and coordination with the Executive  
19          Office of the Governor and other state agencies;  
20          providing an effective date.

21  
22   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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24           Section 1. Section 381.04016, Florida Statutes, is created  
25   to read:

26           381.04016 Minority health strategy; legislative intent;  
27   duties of Office of Minority Health; other state agency duties.-

28           (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that  
29   despite state investments in health care, racial and ethnic

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30 populations in this state continue to have significantly poorer  
31 health outcomes when compared to non-Hispanic whites. The  
32 Legislature further finds that the health care needs of  
33 minorities are diverse and that delivery of services, research,  
34 and public policy must take into account the distinct  
35 characteristics of minority health issues. Priority shall be  
36 given to improving the overall health status of minority men,  
37 women, and children through research and education specific to  
38 minority health issues. The Legislature recognizes the  
39 importance of understanding why there is a large disparity  
40 between minority groups and non-Hispanic whites with regard to  
41 awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of certain diseases, and of  
42 finding answers to this disparity through biomedical research.  
43 Such research has important implications for all minority  
44 individuals in terms of clinical practice and disease  
45 manifestation and prevention. The Legislature recognizes that as  
46 the state's population ages and life expectancy for minority  
47 individuals continues to rise, it is of the utmost importance  
48 for the Legislature to encourage strategies designed to reduce  
49 health disparities, including, but not limited to, addressing  
50 the array of health and social issues, ensuring comprehensive  
51 elimination of health disparities, and promoting health equity  
52 to ensure access to affordable and adequate health care that  
53 meets specific health needs with regard to race and ethnicity.  
54 The Legislature further finds and declares that the culturally  
55 sensitive design and delivery of health care services and  
56 medical education of all health care practitioners shall be  
57 based on the principle that health care needs are diverse and  
58 cultural competency training and medical education are essential

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59 for effectively treating members of minority populations.

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

62 (a) Ensure that the state's policies and programs are  
63 responsive to minority differences and health needs across the  
64 life span.

65 (b) Administer the distribution and provide oversight of  
66 contract management for all funds that are designated for  
67 reducing racial and ethnic health disparities and promoting  
68 optimal health in minority populations.

69 (c) Organize an interagency Committee for Minority Health  
70 for the purpose of setting priorities for minority health and  
71 integrating minority health programs within current operating  
72 and service delivery structures. This committee shall be  
73 comprised of the heads or directors of state agencies that have  
74 programs affecting minority health, including, but not limited  
75 to, the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care  
76 Administration, the Department of Education, the Department of  
77 Elderly Affairs, the Department of Corrections, the Office of  
78 Insurance Regulation within the Department of Financial  
79 Services, and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

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

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

84 (f) Work with medical school curriculum committees to  
85 develop course requirements on minority health and to promote  
86 clinical practice guidelines that are specific to minority  
87 issues and cultural competency.

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88 (g) Organize statewide activities during Minority Health  
89 Month.

90 (h) Promote research, treatment, and collaboration on  
91 minority health issues at universities and medical centers in  
92 the state.

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

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

97 (k) Develop a statewide minority health plan that promotes  
98 collaborative approaches to meeting the health needs of minority  
99 populations. The plan shall:

100 1. Identify activities designed to reduce the number of  
101 premature deaths in minority populations and identify  
102 appropriate resources to implement those activities, including:

103 a. Providing specific strategies for reducing the mortality  
104 rate of minority individuals.

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

108 c. Identifying the best methods for ensuring an increase in  
109 the percentage of minority individuals in the state who receive  
110 screening and diagnostic testing.

111 2. Provide recommendations for the development of practice  
112 guidelines for addressing disease in minority populations.

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

115 4. Coordinate with existing program plans that address  
116 minority health issues.

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117 (l) Promote clinical practice guidelines specific to  
118 minority individuals.

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

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

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

126 (p) By January 15 of each year, provide to the Governor,  
127 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
128 Representatives a report containing policy recommendations for  
129 implementing the provisions of this section.

130 (3) DUTIES OF OTHER STATE AGENCIES.—

131 (a) The Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care  
132 Administration, the Department of Elderly Affairs, the  
133 Department of Corrections, and the Department of Juvenile  
134 Justice shall take minority health issues into consideration in  
135 their annual planning.

136 (b) When assessing research and demonstration proposals for  
137 which state funding is being sought, the Department of Health,  
138 the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the Department of  
139 Elderly Affairs shall consider health issues concerning minority  
140 populations and dissimilar outcomes.

141 (c) Boards or advisory bodies that fall under the purview  
142 of the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care  
143 Administration, or the Department of Elderly Affairs shall seek  
144 equal representation of minority women and men and include  
145 members who are knowledgeable and sensitive to minority

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146 diversity issues.

147 (4) RESPONSIBILITY AND COORDINATION.—The Office of Minority  
148 Health and the department shall direct and carry out the  
149 provisions of this section and may work with the Executive  
150 Office of the Governor and other state agencies to carry out  
151 their duties and responsibilities under this section.

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