

HB 167

2012

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

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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

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

58 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.