

By the Committee on Health Policy; and Senator Rouson

588-02374-21

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Office of Minority Health and  
3           Health Equity; creating s. 381.735, F.S.; requiring  
4           the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity to  
5           develop and promote the statewide implementation of  
6           certain policies, programs, and practices; requiring  
7           one representative from each county health department  
8           to serve as a minority health liaison for a specified  
9           purpose; requiring the office to use all available  
10          resources and pursue funding opportunities to achieve  
11          this purpose; specifying duties for the office;  
12          requiring the Department of Health to maintain  
13          specified information on its website; requiring the  
14          office to serve as a liaison to and assist certain  
15          federal offices; authorizing the department to adopt  
16          rules; providing an effective date.

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

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20           Section 1. Section 381.735, Florida Statutes, is created to  
21           read:

22           381.735 Office of Minority Health and Health Equity.-

23           (1) The Office of Minority Health and Health Equity  
24           established under s. 20.43(9) shall develop and promote the  
25           statewide implementation of policies, programs, and practices  
26           that increase health equity in this state, including, but not  
27           limited to, increased access to and quality of health care  
28           services for racial and ethnic minority populations. One  
29           representative from each county health department shall serve as

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30 a minority health liaison to assist the office in implementing  
31 this section. The office shall use all available resources and  
32 pursue opportunities for increased funding to achieve the  
33 purpose of this section.

34 (2) The office shall coordinate with agencies,  
35 organizations, and providers across this state to do all of the  
36 following:

37 (a) Gather and analyze data regarding disparities in health  
38 status, health outcomes, quality of health care, and access to  
39 health care services for racial and ethnic minority populations  
40 in this state.

41 (b) Develop mechanisms that support better information  
42 dissemination and education about health disparities which lead  
43 to improved access to and delivery of health care services for  
44 racial and ethnic minority populations in this state.

45 (c) Support minority health liaisons by facilitating access  
46 to and the exchange of information related to health promotion,  
47 preventive health services, and education in the appropriate use  
48 of care.

49 (d) Develop and promote synergistic initiatives between  
50 programs, including, but not limited to, programs related to  
51 maternal and child health and human immunodeficiency virus and  
52 acquired immune deficiency syndrome, to mitigate health  
53 disparities for racial and ethnic minority populations in this  
54 state.

55 (e) Promote evaluations of demonstration projects and  
56 disseminate the evaluation findings to enhance the success and  
57 sustainability of policies, programs, and practices that  
58 increase health equity in this state.

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59 (f) Promote the use of community health workers to improve  
60 the cultural competency of services and build individual and  
61 community self-sufficiency.

62 (g) Promote the development of programs that improve access  
63 to health care services for individuals with limited proficiency  
64 in the English language, including persons with disabilities.

65 (3) The department shall maintain all of the following on  
66 its website, updated at least annually:

67 (a) Current data on health disparities and issues affecting  
68 racial and ethnic minority populations in this state.

69 (b) Information about and links to resources available to  
70 racial and ethnic minority populations in this state.

71 (c) Resources for providers who wish to improve cultural  
72 competency, understand health disparities, and increase the  
73 quality of and access to health care services for racial and  
74 ethnic minority populations in this state. These resources must  
75 include, but need not be limited to, minority health literature,  
76 research, and referrals; capacity-building and technical  
77 assistance services; and training materials for implementing  
78 nationally recognized evidence-based practices for culturally  
79 and linguistically appropriate health care services.

80 (d) Contact information for local minority health liaisons.

81 (4) The office shall serve as a liaison to and assist the  
82 federal Offices of Minority Health and Regional Health  
83 Operations, as appropriate.

84 (5) The department may adopt rules to implement this  
85 section.

86 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.