

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to health planning and data; requiring
3 the Department of Health to issue certain daily
4 reports on its website; providing requirements for the
5 reports; providing that the reports are public
6 records; providing construction; amending s. 408.033,
7 F.S., as amended, relating to local health councils;
8 providing an effective date.

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10 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by severe
11 acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, which since first
12 identified in late 2019, has infected millions of people around
13 the world, and

14 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has caused or contributed to the deaths
15 of hundreds of thousands of people in the United States,
16 including tens of thousands of Floridians, and

17 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is one of the agencies
18 essential to the state's efforts to keep residents and visitors
19 safe from COVID-19, and

20 WHEREAS, duties of the Department of Health include, but
21 are not limited to, monitoring, coordinating, and administering
22 COVID-19 testing and vaccinations; compiling testing results,
23 vaccination data, and demographic information; and providing the
24 public with daily updates of such testing, vaccination, and
25 demographic data, along with any other statistical information

26 | related to COVID-19, and

27 | WHEREAS, the Department of Health has partnered with
28 | certain entities, including counties, to facilitate, advance,
29 | and expand the reach of testing and vaccination efforts across
30 | this state, and

31 | WHEREAS, it is critical that certain demographic
32 | information related to COVID-19 testing and vaccination be
33 | measured and released at the county level, and

34 | WHEREAS, providing such information at the county level
35 | will allow a more effective assessment of where to establish
36 | testing and vaccination sites, will enable the identification of
37 | areas requiring an enhanced presence of testing or vaccination
38 | sites based on aggregate data, and will ensure that testing and
39 | vaccination sites are located in the areas of greatest need and
40 | demand, NOW, THEREFORE,

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42 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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44 | Section 1. COVID-19 daily data reporting.—

45 | (1) The Department of Health shall issue daily reports on
46 | its website which include, at a minimum, aggregate testing and
47 | vaccination data at the county level in one chart, including the
48 | birth year, sex, race, ethnicity, and county of each individual
49 | who is tested or vaccinated.

50 | (2) The reports under subsection (1) are public records

51 subject to s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and shall be made
52 available upon request in accordance with that section.

53 (3) This section does not authorize the release or
54 publication of personal identifying information, biometric
55 identification information, or other personal health information
56 protected under state or federal law.

57 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
58 408.033, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 8 of chapter
59 2019-136, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

60 408.033 Local and state health planning.—

61 (1) LOCAL HEALTH COUNCILS.—

62 (b) Each local health council may:

63 1. Develop a district area health plan that permits each
64 local health council to develop strategies and set priorities
65 for implementation based on its unique local health needs.

66 2. Advise the agency on health care issues and resource
67 allocations.

68 3. Promote public awareness of community health needs,
69 emphasizing health promotion and cost-effective health service
70 selection.

71 4. Collect data and conduct analyses and studies related
72 to health care needs of the district, including the needs of
73 medically indigent persons, and assist the agency and other
74 state agencies in carrying out data collection activities that
75 relate to the functions in this subsection.

76 5. Monitor the onsite construction progress, if any, of
 77 certificate-of-need approved projects and report council
 78 findings to the agency on forms provided by the agency.

79 6. Advise and assist any regional planning councils within
 80 each district that have elected to address health issues in
 81 their strategic regional policy plans with the development of
 82 the health element of the plans to address the health goals and
 83 policies in the State Comprehensive Plan.

84 7. Advise and assist local governments within each
 85 district on the development of an optional health plan element
 86 of the comprehensive plan provided in chapter 163, to assure
 87 compatibility with the health goals and policies in the State
 88 Comprehensive Plan and district health plan. To facilitate the
 89 implementation of this section, the local health council shall
 90 annually provide the local governments in its service area, upon
 91 request, with:

92 a. A copy and appropriate updates of the district health
 93 plan;

94 b. A report of hospital and nursing home utilization
 95 statistics for facilities within the local government
 96 jurisdiction; and

97 c. Applicable agency rules and calculated need
 98 methodologies for health facilities and services regulated under
 99 s. 408.034 for the district served by the local health council.

100 8. Monitor and evaluate the adequacy, appropriateness, and

101 effectiveness, within the district, of local, state, federal,
102 and private funds distributed to meet the needs of the medically
103 indigent and other underserved population groups.

104 9. In conjunction with the Department of Health, plan for
105 services at the local level for persons infected with the human
106 immunodeficiency virus.

107 10. Provide technical assistance to encourage and support
108 activities by providers, purchasers, consumers, and local,
109 regional, and state agencies in meeting the health care goals,
110 objectives, and policies adopted by the local health council.

111 11. Provide the agency with data required by rule for the
112 review of certificate-of-need applications and the projection of
113 need for health ~~services~~ and facilities in the district.

114 Section 3. This act shall take effect June 30, 2021.