

By Senator Rouson

16-01553-23

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to health disparities; amending s.
3 381.735, F.S.; specifying that efforts of the Office
4 of Minority Health and Health Equity to improve access
5 to and delivery of health services to racial and
6 ethnic minority populations include efforts to
7 eliminate racial disparities in vaccination rates in
8 this state; providing an effective date.
9

10 WHEREAS, it is reported that nationally, between January
11 2020 and July 2021, an estimated 37.1 million doses of
12 recommended vaccines were not administered to eligible
13 adolescents and adults, and

14 WHEREAS, racial and ethnic minority populations have
15 consistently lower vaccination rates than white populations,
16 reportedly due to less awareness of vaccines and lack of
17 information on when they should receive vaccines, and

18 WHEREAS, disparities in access and awareness also vary by
19 vaccine type, with 28 percent of African-American adults in this
20 state reported as having received a pneumococcal vaccine in
21 2019, compared to 42.1 percent of white adults, and another
22 survey finding that human papillomavirus (HPV) and HPV vaccine
23 awareness was significantly higher in surveyed white
24 participants than in racial and ethnic minority participants,
25 and

26 WHEREAS, as of July 2022, COVID-19 vaccination rates for
27 African-American individuals were 18 percentage points below
28 those for white individuals in this state, and

29 WHEREAS, providing targeted education and awareness of

16-01553-23

20231350__

30 routine adult vaccinations among racial and ethnic minority
31 populations in this state through evidence-based strategies can
32 increase uptake in these communities and improve vaccine
33 coverage parity between them, NOW, THEREFORE,

34
35 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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37 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
38 381.735, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39 381.735 Office of Minority Health and Health Equity.-

40 (2) The office shall coordinate with agencies,
41 organizations, and providers across this state to do all of the
42 following:

43 (b) Develop mechanisms that support better information
44 dissemination and education about health disparities which lead
45 to improved access to and delivery of health care services to
46 racial and ethnic minority populations in this state. Such
47 mechanisms include, but are not limited to, those that support
48 efforts to eliminate racial disparities in vaccination rates in
49 this state through improved information dissemination and
50 education on the importance of vaccinations and the availability
51 of such vaccines.

52 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.