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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to human immunodeficiency virus; amending
 3 s. 381.0046, F.S.; increasing the number of HIV and AIDS
 4 minority coordinators within the Department of Health;
 5 requiring the department to expand its HIV/AIDS prevention
 6 efforts in Florida's minority communities and establish
 7 linkage programs for HIV-positive inmates prior to their
 8 release from jail; deleting obsolete provisions; providing
 9 an effective date.

10
 11 WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is one of the state's most critical
 12 public health challenges, with Florida having the third highest
 13 number of AIDS cases in the nation and the second highest number
 14 of pediatric AIDS cases, and

15 WHEREAS, minorities, primarily blacks and Hispanics, now
 16 constitute 61 percent of the more than 83,000 adult and
 17 pediatric AIDS cases reported in Florida since the epidemic
 18 began in 1981, and

19 WHEREAS, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has disproportionately
 20 affected Florida's minority communities, and

21 WHEREAS, the total medical and related lifetime costs for a
 22 patient infected with HIV may reach \$175,000 or more, and

23 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that sustained,
 24 comprehensive prevention efforts can have a substantial impact
 25 on slowing the course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and

26 WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to decrease the number of
 27 deaths of minorities due to HIV/AIDS by increasing public
 28 awareness, increasing early detection and treatment of HIV/AIDS
 29 in the state's minority communities, and increasing the



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30 coordination of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts in the
 31 state's minority communities, and

32 WHEREAS, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the state's jails
 33 exceeds the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the general population,
 34 and

35 WHEREAS, recent advances in treatment for HIV/AIDS can
 36 potentially reduce the number of opportunistic infections and
 37 associated medical costs and delay the onset of death due to the
 38 disease, and

39 WHEREAS, referral to appropriate medical and social
 40 services upon the release of an inmate can play a crucial role
 41 in treatment, care, and secondary prevention efforts, and

42 WHEREAS, the Legislature authorized the creation of the
 43 Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force to provide recommendations on
 44 strategies to strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention, early
 45 intervention, and treatment efforts in Florida's minority
 46 communities, NOW, THEREFORE,

47

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

49

50 Section 1. Section 381.0046, Florida Statutes, is amended
 51 to read:

52 381.0046 Statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign.--

53 (1) The Department of Health shall develop and implement a
 54 statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign that is directed
 55 towards minorities who are at risk of HIV infection. The
 56 campaign shall include television, radio, and outdoor
 57 advertising; public service announcements; and peer-to-peer
 58 outreach. Each campaign message and concept shall be evaluated
 59 with members of the target group to ensure its effectiveness.



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60 The campaign shall provide information on the risk of HIV and
61 AIDS infection and strategies to follow for prevention, early
62 detection, and treatment. The campaign shall use culturally
63 sensitive literature and educational materials and promote the
64 development of individual skills for behavior modification. The
65 campaign shall be expanded to include prevention information
66 specifically targeted to Florida's Hispanic and Haitian
67 communities.

68 (2) The Department of Health shall establish eight ~~four~~
69 positions within the department for HIV and AIDS regional
70 minority coordinators and one position for a statewide HIV and
71 AIDS minority coordinator. The coordinators shall facilitate
72 statewide efforts to implement and coordinate HIV and AIDS
73 prevention and treatment programs. The statewide coordinator
74 shall report directly to the chief of the Bureau of HIV and AIDS
75 within the Department of Health.

76 (3) The Department of Health shall provide HIV/AIDS
77 outreach programs in Florida's minority communities to identify
78 persons infected with HIV/AIDS. These programs shall address
79 real and perceived barriers to HIV testing among Florida's
80 minority populations. ~~The Department of Health shall, with~~
81 ~~assistance from the Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force and the~~
82 ~~statewide coordinator, plan and conduct a statewide Black~~
83 ~~Leadership Conference on HIV and AIDS by January 2000. The~~
84 ~~conference shall provide workshops for minority organizations in~~
85 ~~building skills and improving an organization's capacity to~~
86 ~~conduct HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment programs.~~

87 (4) The department shall provide a program to ensure that
88 HIV-positive persons are linked with prevention, care, and
89 support services. This program shall be provided in a culturally



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90 sensitive manner to promote prevention among persons who are HIV
91 positive and increase the acceptance and delivery of care and
92 support services in high-risk communities.

93 (5) The department shall expand testing programs for HIV,
94 sexually transmissible diseases, and hepatitis in local county
95 jails. The department shall establish programs for HIV-positive
96 inmates to ensure coordination and linkage to treatment and
97 secondary prevention messages upon their release.

98 (6) To promote HIV testing among minority persons who are
99 at risk of infection, the department shall expand its HIV
100 counseling, testing, and referral services to include additional
101 Orasure testing.

102 (7) These minority programs shall be consistent with the
103 findings and recommendations of the Minority HIV and AIDS Task
104 Force, the HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Prevention Plan, and the
105 recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and
106 Prevention.

107 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.