By Senator Wilson

33-00102-08

2008212

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the testing of inmates for HIV infection in certain county detention facilities; amending s. 951.27, F.S.; requiring the Department of Health to designate certain counties, if approved by the county's governing body, to participate in a program to test each inmate for HIV before the inmate is released if the inmate's HIV status is unknown; providing certain exceptions; requiring that certain county detention facilities notify the Department of Health and the county health department in the county where the inmate plans to reside following release if the inmate is HIV positive; requiring certain detention facilities to provide special transitional assistance to an inmate who is HIV positive; providing for immunity for complying entities; amending s. 381.004, F.S.; providing that informed consent is not required for an HIV test of an inmate before the inmate's release from a municipal or county detention facility; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Section 951.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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951.27 Blood tests of inmates.--

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(1) Each county and each municipal detention facility shall have a written procedure developed, in consultation with the facility medical provider, establishing conditions under which an inmate will be tested for infectious disease, including human

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33-00102-08 2008212

immunodeficiency virus pursuant to s. 775.0877, which procedure is consistent with guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and recommendations of the Correctional Medical Authority. It is not unlawful for the person receiving the test results to divulge the test results to the sheriff or chief correctional officer.

- (2) (a) The Department of Health shall designate two counties having a population of 1.2 million or more and five counties having a population of fewer than 1.2 million to participate in the testing program provided in this subsection, if participation in the testing program is authorized by a majority of the county's governing body. Each county detention facility that lies within the authority of any participating county shall, consistent with s. 381.004(3), perform an HIV test as defined in s. 381.004(2) on each sentenced inmate who is to be released from the facility unless the facility knows that the inmate is HIV positive or unless, within 120 days before the release date, the inmate has been tested for HIV and does not request retesting. The required test must be performed not less than 30 days before the release date of the inmate. A test is not required under this paragraph if an inmate is released due to an emergency or a court order and the detention facility receives less than 30 days' notice of the release date or if the inmate is transferred to the custody of the Department of Corrections for incarceration in the state correctional system.
- (b) Each county detention facility in a county that participates in the testing program authorized in paragraph (a) must comply with the requirements of this paragraph. If the county detention facility knows that an inmate who is to be

33-00102-08 2008212

released from the facility is HIV positive or has received a positive HIV test result, that facility shall, before the inmate is released:

- 1. Notify, consistent with s. 381.004(3), the Department of Health and the county health department in the county where the inmate being released plans to reside of the release date and HIV status of the inmate.
- 2. Provide special transitional assistance to the inmate which must include:
- a. Education on preventing the transmission of HIV to others and on the importance of receiving followup medical care and treatment.
- b. A written, individualized discharge plan that includes records of all laboratory and diagnostic test results, medication and treatment information, and referrals to and contacts with the county health department and local primary medical care services for the treatment of HIV infection which are available in the area where the inmate plans to reside.
- (3) (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, serologic blood test results obtained pursuant to subsection (1) or subsection (2) are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. However, such results may be provided to employees or officers of the sheriff or chief correctional officer who are responsible for the custody and care of the affected inmate and have a need to know such information, and as provided in ss. 381.004(3), 775.0877, and 960.003. In addition, upon request of the victim or the victim's legal guardian, or the parent or legal guardian of the victim if the victim is a minor, the results of any HIV test

33-00102-08 2008212

performed on an inmate who has been arrested for any sexual offense involving oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another, shall be disclosed to the victim or the victim's legal guardian, or to the parent or legal guardian of the victim if the victim is a minor. In such cases, the county or municipal detention facility shall furnish the test results to the Department of Health, which is responsible for disclosing the results to public health agencies as provided in s. 775.0877 and to the victim or the victim's legal guardian, or the parent or legal guardian of the victim if the victim is a minor, as provided in s. 960.003(3).

- (4) (3) The results of any serologic blood test on an inmate are a part of that inmate's permanent medical file. Upon transfer of the inmate to any other correctional facility, such file is also transferred, and all relevant authorized persons must be notified of positive HIV test results, as required in s. 775.0877.
- (5) Notwithstanding any statute providing for a waiver of sovereign immunity, the state, its agencies, or subdivisions, and employees of the state, its agencies, or subdivisions, are not liable to any person for negligently causing death or personal injury arising out of complying with this section.
- Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 381.004, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 381.004 HIV testing.--
- (3) HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TESTING; INFORMED CONSENT; RESULTS; COUNSELING; CONFIDENTIALITY.--
- (a) No person in this state shall order a test designed to identify the human immunodeficiency virus, or its antigen or

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33-00102-08 2008212

antibody, without first obtaining the informed consent of the person upon whom the test is being performed, except as specified in paragraph (h). Informed consent shall be preceded by an explanation of the right to confidential treatment of information identifying the subject of the test and the results of the test to the extent provided by law. Information shall also be provided on the fact that a positive HIV test result will be reported to the county health department with sufficient information to identify the test subject and on the availability and location of sites at which anonymous testing is performed. As required in paragraph (4)(c), each county health department shall maintain a list of sites at which anonymous testing is performed, including the locations, phone numbers, and hours of operation of the sites. Consent need not be in writing provided there is documentation in the medical record that the test has been explained and the consent has been obtained.

- (b) Except as provided in paragraph (h), informed consent must be obtained from a legal guardian or other person authorized by law when the person:
- 1. Is not competent, is incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to make an informed judgment; or
- 2. Has not reached the age of majority, except as provided in s. 384.30.
- (c) The person ordering the test or that person's designee shall ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to notify the test subject of his or her test result. Notification of a person with a positive test result shall include information on the availability of appropriate medical and support services, on the importance of notifying partners who may have been exposed, and

33-00102-08 2008212

on preventing transmission of HIV. Notification of a person with a negative test result shall include, as appropriate, information on preventing the transmission of HIV. When testing occurs in a hospital emergency department, detention facility, or other facility and the test subject has been released before being notified of positive test results, informing the county health department for that department to notify the test subject fulfills this responsibility.

- (d) A positive preliminary test result may not be revealed to any person except in the following situations:
- 1. Preliminary test results may be released to licensed physicians or the medical or nonmedical personnel subject to the significant exposure for purposes of subparagraphs (h)10., 11., and 12.
- 2. Preliminary test results may be released to health care providers and to the person tested when decisions about medical care or treatment of, or recommendation to, the person tested and, in the case of an intrapartum or postpartum woman, when care, treatment, or recommendations regarding her newborn, cannot await the results of confirmatory testing. Positive preliminary HIV test results may not be characterized to the patient as a diagnosis of HIV infection. Justification for the use of preliminary test results must be documented in the medical record by the health care provider who ordered the test.
- 3. The results of rapid testing technologies shall be considered preliminary and may be released in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions as approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration.
  - 4. Corroborating or confirmatory testing must be conducted

33-00102-08 2008212

as followup to a positive preliminary test. Results shall be communicated to the patient according to statute regardless of the outcome. Except as provided in this section, test results are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

- (e) Except as provided in this section, the identity of any person upon whom a test has been performed and test results are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). No person who has obtained or has knowledge of a test result pursuant to this section may disclose or be compelled to disclose the identity of any person upon whom a test is performed, or the results of such a test in a manner which permits identification of the subject of the test, except to the following persons:
- 1. The subject of the test or the subject's legally authorized representative.
- 2. Any person, including third-party payors, designated in a legally effective release of the test results executed prior to or after the test by the subject of the test or the subject's legally authorized representative. The test subject may in writing authorize the disclosure of the test subject's HIV test results to third party payors, who need not be specifically identified, and to other persons to whom the test subject subsequently issues a general release of medical information. A general release without such prior written authorization is not sufficient to release HIV test results.
- 3. An authorized agent or employee of a health facility or health care provider if the health facility or health care provider itself is authorized to obtain the test results, the agent or employee participates in the administration or provision of patient care or handles or processes specimens of body fluids

33-00102-08 2008212

or tissues, and the agent or employee has a need to know such information. The department shall adopt a rule defining which persons have a need to know pursuant to this subparagraph.

- 4. Health care providers consulting between themselves or with health care facilities to determine diagnosis and treatment. For purposes of this subparagraph, health care providers shall include licensed health care professionals employed by or associated with state, county, or municipal detention facilities when such health care professionals are acting exclusively for the purpose of providing diagnoses or treatment of persons in the custody of such facilities.
- 5. The department, in accordance with rules for reporting and controlling the spread of disease, as otherwise provided by state law.
- 6. A health facility or health care provider which procures, processes, distributes, or uses:
- a. A human body part from a deceased person, with respect to medical information regarding that person; or
- b. Semen provided prior to July 6, 1988, for the purpose of artificial insemination.
- 7. Health facility staff committees, for the purposes of conducting program monitoring, program evaluation, or service reviews pursuant to chapters 395 and 766.
- 8. Authorized medical or epidemiological researchers who may not further disclose any identifying characteristics or information.
- 9. A person allowed access by a court order which is issued in compliance with the following provisions:
  - a. No court of this state shall issue such order unless the

33-00102-08 2008212

court finds that the person seeking the test results has demonstrated a compelling need for the test results which cannot be accommodated by other means. In assessing compelling need, the court shall weigh the need for disclosure against the privacy interest of the test subject and the public interest which may be disserved by disclosure which deters blood, organ, and semen donation and future human immunodeficiency virus-related testing or which may lead to discrimination. This paragraph shall not apply to blood bank donor records.

- b. Pleadings pertaining to disclosure of test results shall substitute a pseudonym for the true name of the subject of the test. The disclosure to the parties of the subject's true name shall be communicated confidentially in documents not filed with the court.
- c. Before granting any such order, the court shall provide the individual whose test result is in question with notice and a reasonable opportunity to participate in the proceedings if he or she is not already a party.
- d. Court proceedings as to disclosure of test results shall be conducted in camera, unless the subject of the test agrees to a hearing in open court or unless the court determines that a public hearing is necessary to the public interest and the proper administration of justice.
- e. Upon the issuance of an order to disclose test results, the court shall impose appropriate safeguards against unauthorized disclosure which shall specify the persons who may have access to the information, the purposes for which the information shall be used, and appropriate prohibitions on future disclosure.

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33-00102-08 2008212

10. A person allowed access by order of a judge of compensation claims of the Division of Administrative Hearings. A judge of compensation claims shall not issue such order unless he or she finds that the person seeking the test results has demonstrated a compelling need for the test results which cannot be accommodated by other means.

- 11. Those employees of the department or of child-placing or child-caring agencies or of family foster homes, licensed pursuant to s. 409.175, who are directly involved in the placement, care, control, or custody of such test subject and who have a need to know such information; adoptive parents of such test subject; or any adult custodian, any adult relative, or any person responsible for the child's welfare, if the test subject was not tested under subparagraph (b)2. and if a reasonable attempt has been made to locate and inform the legal guardian of a test result. The department shall adopt a rule to implement this subparagraph.
- 12. Those employees of residential facilities or of community-based care programs that care for developmentally disabled persons, pursuant to chapter 393, who are directly involved in the care, control, or custody of such test subject and who have a need to know such information.
- 13. A health care provider involved in the delivery of a child can note the mother's HIV test results in the child's medical record.
- 14. Medical personnel or nonmedical personnel who have been subject to a significant exposure during the course of medical practice or in the performance of professional duties, or individuals who are the subject of the significant exposure as

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33-00102-08 2008212

291 provided in subparagraphs (h) 10.-12.

- 15. The medical examiner shall disclose positive HIV test results to the department in accordance with rules for reporting and controlling the spread of disease.
- Except as provided in this section, the identity of a person upon whom a test has been performed is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1). No person to whom the results of a test have been disclosed may disclose the test results to another person except as authorized by this subsection and by ss. 951.27 and 960.003. Whenever disclosure is made pursuant to this subsection, it shall be accompanied by a statement in writing which includes the following or substantially similar language: "This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by state law. State law prohibits you from making any further disclosure of such information without the specific written consent of the person to whom such information pertains, or as otherwise permitted by state law. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this purpose." An oral disclosure shall be accompanied by oral notice and followed by a written notice within 10 days, except that this notice shall not be required for disclosures made pursuant to subparagraphs (e) 3. and 4.
- (g) Human immunodeficiency virus test results contained in the medical records of a hospital licensed under chapter 395 may be released in accordance with s. 395.3025 without being subject to the requirements of subparagraph (e)2., subparagraph (e)9., or paragraph (f); provided the hospital has obtained written informed consent for the HIV test in accordance with provisions

33-00102-08 2008212

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- (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), informed consent is not required:
- 1. When testing for sexually transmissible diseases is required by state or federal law, or by rule including the following situations:
- a. HIV testing pursuant to s. 796.08 of persons convicted of prostitution or of procuring another to commit prostitution.
- b. HIV testing of inmates pursuant to s. 945.355 prior to their release from prison by reason of parole, accumulation of gain-time credits, or expiration of sentence.
- c. Testing for HIV by a medical examiner in accordance with  $s.\ 406.11$ .
  - d. HIV testing of pregnant women pursuant to s. 384.31.
- e. HIV testing of inmates pursuant to s. 951.27 before their release from a county or municipal detention facility.
- 2. Those exceptions provided for blood, plasma, organs, skin, semen, or other human tissue pursuant to s. 381.0041.
- 3. For the performance of an HIV-related test by licensed medical personnel in bona fide medical emergencies when the test results are necessary for medical diagnostic purposes to provide appropriate emergency care or treatment to the person being tested and the patient is unable to consent, as supported by documentation in the medical record. Notification of test results in accordance with paragraph (c) is required.
- 4. For the performance of an HIV-related test by licensed medical personnel for medical diagnosis of acute illness where, in the opinion of the attending physician, obtaining informed consent would be detrimental to the patient, as supported by

33-00102-08 2008212

documentation in the medical record, and the test results are necessary for medical diagnostic purposes to provide appropriate care or treatment to the person being tested. Notification of test results in accordance with paragraph (c) is required if it would not be detrimental to the patient. This subparagraph does not authorize the routine testing of patients for HIV infection without informed consent.

- 5. When HIV testing is performed as part of an autopsy for which consent was obtained pursuant to s. 872.04.
- 6. For the performance of an HIV test upon a defendant pursuant to the victim's request in a prosecution for any type of sexual battery where a blood sample is taken from the defendant voluntarily, pursuant to court order for any purpose, or pursuant to the provisions of s. 775.0877, s. 951.27, or s. 960.003; however, the results of any HIV test performed shall be disclosed solely to the victim and the defendant, except as provided in ss. 775.0877, 951.27, and 960.003.
  - 7. When an HIV test is mandated by court order.
- 8. For epidemiological research pursuant to s. 381.0032, for research consistent with institutional review boards created by 45 C.F.R. part 46, or for the performance of an HIV-related test for the purpose of research, if the testing is performed in a manner by which the identity of the test subject is not known and may not be retrieved by the researcher.
- 9. When human tissue is collected lawfully without the consent of the donor for corneal removal as authorized by s. 765.5185 or enucleation of the eyes as authorized by s. 765.519.
- 10. For the performance of an HIV test upon an individual who comes into contact with medical personnel in such a way that

33-00102-08 2008212

a significant exposure has occurred during the course of employment or within the scope of practice and where a blood sample is available that was taken from that individual voluntarily by medical personnel for other purposes. The term "medical personnel" includes a licensed or certified health care professional; an employee of a health care professional or health care facility; employees of a laboratory licensed under chapter 483; personnel of a blood bank or plasma center; a medical student or other student who is receiving training as a health care professional at a health care facility; and a paramedic or emergency medical technician certified by the department to perform life-support procedures under s. 401.23.

- a. Prior to performance of an HIV test on a voluntarily obtained blood sample, the individual from whom the blood was obtained shall be requested to consent to the performance of the test and to the release of the results. The individual's refusal to consent and all information concerning the performance of an HIV test and any HIV test result shall be documented only in the medical personnel's record unless the individual gives written consent to entering this information on the individual's medical record.
- b. Reasonable attempts to locate the individual and to obtain consent shall be made, and all attempts must be documented. If the individual cannot be found, an HIV test may be conducted on the available blood sample. If the individual does not voluntarily consent to the performance of an HIV test, the individual shall be informed that an HIV test will be performed, and counseling shall be furnished as provided in this section. However, HIV testing shall be conducted only after a licensed

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33-00102-08 2008212

physician documents, in the medical record of the medical personnel, that there has been a significant exposure and that, in the physician's medical judgment, the information is medically necessary to determine the course of treatment for the medical personnel.

- c. Costs of any HIV test of a blood sample performed with or without the consent of the individual, as provided in this subparagraph, shall be borne by the medical personnel or the employer of the medical personnel. However, costs of testing or treatment not directly related to the initial HIV tests or costs of subsequent testing or treatment may not be borne by the medical personnel or the employer of the medical personnel.
- d. In order to utilize the provisions of this subparagraph, the medical personnel must either be tested for HIV pursuant to this section or provide the results of an HIV test taken within 6 months prior to the significant exposure if such test results are negative.
- e. A person who receives the results of an HIV test pursuant to this subparagraph shall maintain the confidentiality of the information received and of the persons tested. Such confidential information is exempt from s. 119.07(1).
- f. If the source of the exposure will not voluntarily submit to HIV testing and a blood sample is not available, the medical personnel or the employer of such person acting on behalf of the employee may seek a court order directing the source of the exposure to submit to HIV testing. A sworn statement by a physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 that a significant exposure has occurred and that, in the physician's medical judgment, testing is medically necessary to determine the

33-00102-08 2008212

course of treatment constitutes probable cause for the issuance of an order by the court. The results of the test shall be released to the source of the exposure and to the person who experienced the exposure.

- 11. For the performance of an HIV test upon an individual who comes into contact with medical personnel in such a way that a significant exposure has occurred during the course of employment or within the scope of practice of the medical personnel while the medical personnel provides emergency medical treatment to the individual; or who comes into contact with nonmedical personnel in such a way that a significant exposure has occurred while the nonmedical personnel provides emergency medical assistance during a medical emergency. For the purposes of this subparagraph, a medical emergency means an emergency medical condition outside of a hospital or health care facility that provides physician care. The test may be performed only during the course of treatment for the medical emergency.
- a. An individual who is capable of providing consent shall be requested to consent to an HIV test prior to the testing. The individual's refusal to consent, and all information concerning the performance of an HIV test and its result, shall be documented only in the medical personnel's record unless the individual gives written consent to entering this information on the individual's medical record.
- b. HIV testing shall be conducted only after a licensed physician documents, in the medical record of the medical personnel or nonmedical personnel, that there has been a significant exposure and that, in the physician's medical judgment, the information is medically necessary to determine the

33-00102-08 2008212

course of treatment for the medical personnel or nonmedical personnel.

- c. Costs of any HIV test performed with or without the consent of the individual, as provided in this subparagraph, shall be borne by the medical personnel or the employer of the medical personnel or nonmedical personnel. However, costs of testing or treatment not directly related to the initial HIV tests or costs of subsequent testing or treatment may not be borne by the medical personnel or the employer of the medical personnel or nonmedical personnel.
- d. In order to utilize the provisions of this subparagraph, the medical personnel or nonmedical personnel shall be tested for HIV pursuant to this section or shall provide the results of an HIV test taken within 6 months prior to the significant exposure if such test results are negative.
- e. A person who receives the results of an HIV test pursuant to this subparagraph shall maintain the confidentiality of the information received and of the persons tested. Such confidential information is exempt from s. 119.07(1).
- f. If the source of the exposure will not voluntarily submit to HIV testing and a blood sample was not obtained during treatment for the medical emergency, the medical personnel, the employer of the medical personnel acting on behalf of the employee, or the nonmedical personnel may seek a court order directing the source of the exposure to submit to HIV testing. A sworn statement by a physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 that a significant exposure has occurred and that, in the physician's medical judgment, testing is medically necessary to determine the course of treatment constitutes probable cause

33-00102-08 2008212

for the issuance of an order by the court. The results of the test shall be released to the source of the exposure and to the person who experienced the exposure.

- 12. For the performance of an HIV test by the medical examiner or attending physician upon an individual who expired or could not be resuscitated while receiving emergency medical assistance or care and who was the source of a significant exposure to medical or nonmedical personnel providing such assistance or care.
- a. HIV testing may be conducted only after a licensed physician documents in the medical record of the medical personnel or nonmedical personnel that there has been a significant exposure and that, in the physician's medical judgment, the information is medically necessary to determine the course of treatment for the medical personnel or nonmedical personnel.
- b. Costs of any HIV test performed under this subparagraph may not be charged to the deceased or to the family of the deceased person.
- c. For the provisions of this subparagraph to be applicable, the medical personnel or nonmedical personnel must be tested for HIV under this section or must provide the results of an HIV test taken within 6 months before the significant exposure if such test results are negative.
- d. A person who receives the results of an HIV test pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with paragraph (e).
- 13. For the performance of an HIV-related test medically indicated by licensed medical personnel for medical diagnosis of a hospitalized infant as necessary to provide appropriate care

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33-00102-08 2008212

and treatment of the infant when, after a reasonable attempt, a parent cannot be contacted to provide consent. The medical records of the infant shall reflect the reason consent of the parent was not initially obtained. Test results shall be provided to the parent when the parent is located.

- 14. For the performance of HIV testing conducted to monitor the clinical progress of a patient previously diagnosed to be HIV positive.
- 15. For the performance of repeated HIV testing conducted to monitor possible conversion from a significant exposure.
  - Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

Page 19 of 19