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

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

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

381.735 Office of Minority Health and Health Equity.—
(1) The Office of Minority Health and Health Equity established under s. 20.43(9) shall develop and promote the 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
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
38 | health status, health outcomes, quality of health care, and
39 | access to health care services for racial and ethnic minority
40 | populations 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 to
44 | racial and ethnic minority populations in this state.

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

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
63 access to health care services for individuals with limited
64 proficiency in the English language, including individuals with
65 disabilities.

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

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

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

72 (c) Resources for providers who wish to improve cultural
73 competency, understand health disparities, and increase the
74 quality of and access to health care services for racial and
75 ethnic minority populations in this state. These resources must

76 | include, but need not be limited to, minority health literature,
77 | research, and referrals; capacity-building and technical
78 | assistance services; and training materials for implementing
79 | nationally recognized evidence-based practices for culturally
80 | and linguistically appropriate health care services.

81 | (d) Contact information for local minority health
82 | liaisons.

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

86 | (5) The department may adopt rules to implement this
87 | section.

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