



## **H.B. 441**

124th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. S. Smith, Patton, Beatty, R. Miller, D. Miller, Allen, Hoops, Barrett, Strahorn, Britton, Cirelli, DePiero, Woodard, Key, Flannery, Aslanides, Seaver, Coates, Sullivan, Redfern, Latell, Sykes, Oakar, Ford, Barnes, Krupinski**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Requires the Director of Health in conjunction with one statewide and four regional HIV and AIDS minority coordinators appointed by the Director to develop and administer a statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign directed at minorities at risk for HIV infection.
- Creates the Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force for the purpose of submitting a report to the Governor and the General Assembly that includes recommendations concerning the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS in minority communities.
- Requires the Department of Health, with the assistance of the Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force, the Commission on Minority Health, and the statewide HIV and AIDS coordinator, to conduct a Black Leadership Conference on HIV and AIDS not later than July 31, 2003.
- Makes an appropriation.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **HIV and AIDS prevention campaign**

Current law requires the Director of Health to develop and administer certain programs regarding the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Those programs include a surveillance system to determine the number of HIV and AIDS cases, counseling and testing programs, a confidential partner notification system, risk reduction and education programs, long-term care pilot programs for individuals with AIDS and

HIV, outpatient treatment programs, and community assistance programs. (Sec. 3701.241(A)(1)(a) to (g).)

The bill requires the Director to develop and administer a statewide HIV and AIDS prevention campaign directed toward minority group members who are at risk of HIV infection. As part of the program the Director is required to appoint a statewide HIV and AIDS minority coordinator who reports directly to the Director, and four HIV and AIDS regional minority coordinators. The coordinators are required to assist the Director in the development and administration of the campaign. The campaign must do all of the following:

- (1) Use a variety of means of communication, including television, radio, outdoor activities, public service announcements, and peer-to-peer outreach;
- (2) Provide information on the risk of HIV and AIDS infection and strategies to follow for prevention, early detection, and treatment;
- (3) Use culturally sensitive literature and educational materials; and
- (4) Promote the development of individual skills for behavior modification. (Secs. 3701.241(A)(1)(h) and 3701.2411.)

The bill specifies that the campaign is to be established in addition to any other programs developed and administered by the Director of Health. Further, each campaign message and concept must be evaluated with members of the targeted group to ensure effectiveness (secs. 3701.241(A)(1)(h) and 3701.2411).

### **Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force**

In addition to the HIV and AIDS prevention campaign it requires to be established, the bill creates the Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force. The Director of Health, after consulting with the Commission on Minority Health, must appoint to the Task Force no fewer than 15 members. The members must represent the following groups: (1) persons who are infected with HIV or have AIDS, (2) minority community-based support organizations, (3) minority treatment providers, (4) the religious community within groups of persons who are infected with HIV or have AIDS, and (5) the Commission on Minority Health. (Section 3(B).) The members of the Task Force are required to serve without compensation, but must be reimbursed by the Department of Health for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties (Section 3(C)).

### **Functions of the Task Force**

The Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force is required to study ways to strengthen HIV and AIDS prevention programs and early intervention and treatment efforts in the state's Black, Hispanic, and other minority communities and ways to address the many needs of the state's minorities who have AIDS and their families. Further, the Task Force must provide specific recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, the Department of Health, and the Commission on Minority Health and meet as often as necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities. Within existing resources, the Department of Health must provide support services to the Task Force. Finally, the Task Force is required to prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Department of Health not later than February 1, 2003. The report is required to include all of the following:

(1) Specific strategies for reducing the risk of HIV and AIDS in the state's minority community;

(2) A plan for establishing mentor programs and exchanging information and ideas among minority community-based organizations that provide HIV and AIDS prevention services;

(3) The needs of prevention and treatment programs within minority communities and the resources that are available within minority communities;

(4) Specific strategies for ensuring that minority group members who are at risk of HIV infection and AIDS seek testing;

(5) Specific strategies for ensuring that minority group members with HIV or AIDS are provided with access to treatment and secondary prevention services;

(6) Specific strategies to help reduce or eliminate high-risk behaviors in minority group members who test negative but continue to practice high-risk behaviors; and

(7) A plan to evaluate the implementation of the Task Force recommendations. (Section 3(D).)

On submission of the report, the bill specifies that the Task Force ceases to exist (Section 3(E)).

**Black Leadership Conference on HIV and AIDS**

The bill requires the Department of Health, with assistance from the Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force, the Commission on Minority Health, and the statewide HIV and AIDS coordinator, to plan and conduct a statewide Black Leadership Conference on HIV and AIDS not later than July 31, 2003. The conference must provide workshops for minority organizations in building skills and improving an organization's capacity to conduct HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment programs. (Section 4.)

**Appropriation**

The bill appropriates \$525,000 from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal years 2002 and 2003 to be used for the HIV and AIDS prevention campaign. (Section 5.)

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**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	11-29-01	p. 1096

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