

SENATE BILL No. 117

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 16-18-2-254.5; IC 16-19-13.

Synopsis: Office of women's health initiatives. Establishes the office of women's health initiatives within the state department of health. Requires the commissioner of the state department of health to appoint a chief of the office and any other necessary employees to staff the office. Describes the purpose of the office as follows: (1) To assist the commissioner in identifying, coordinating, and setting priorities for programs, services, and resources that the state department of health provides for certain health concerns of women. (2) To educate and advocate for women's health. (3) To collect, classify, and analyze relevant research information. (4) To
(Continued next page)

Effective: July 1, 1998.

Simpson, Lawson, Gard

January 6, 1998, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Environmental Affairs.



Digest Continued

serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding women's health data, strategies, and programs that address any women's health issues. (5) To seek funding from private or governmental entities for office programs and initiatives. Requires the state health commissioner to develop and implement biennial initiatives and funding for women's health issues. Requires the state health commissioner to appoint an advisory committee on women's health to help advise the chief of the office regarding initiatives, services, and educational programs relating to the office.



Introduced

Second Regular Session 110th General Assembly (1998)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1997 General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 117

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning health.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 16-18-2-254.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 1998]: **Sec. 254.5. "Office", for purposes of IC 16-19-13,**
4 **refers to the office of women's health initiatives.**

5 SECTION 2. IC 16-19-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
6 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
7 1998]:

8 **Chapter 13. Office of Women's Health Initiatives**

9 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "office" refers to the office of**
10 **women's health initiatives established by this chapter.**

11 **Sec. 2. The office of women's health initiatives is created within**
12 **the state department.**

13 **Sec. 3. (a) The state health commissioner shall appoint persons to**
14 **staff the office including:**

15 **(1) the chief of the office; and**

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1 (2) any other employees that the state health commissioner
2 determines are necessary.

3 (b) The employees appointed under subsection (a)(2) shall report
4 to the chief of the office. The chief of the office shall report to the
5 state health commissioner.

6 **Sec. 4. The office is created for the following purposes:**

7 (1) To assist the state health commissioner in identifying,
8 coordinating, and setting priorities for programs, services, and
9 resources the state department provides for women's health
10 concerns relating to each of the reproductive, menopausal, and
11 postmenopausal phases of a woman's life cycle.

12 (2) To educate and advocate for women's health by requesting
13 that the state department, either on its own or in partnership
14 with other entities:

15 (A) conduct, sponsor, encourage, or fund women's health
16 research;

17 (B) establish appropriate programs or initiatives designed
18 to educate about women's health; and

19 (C) monitor the research and program efforts, and report
20 its findings as described under subdivision (3).

21 (3) To collect, classify, and analyze relevant research
22 information and data conducted by:

23 (1) the state department; or

24 (2) other entities in collaboration with the state department;
25 and provide interested persons with information regarding the
26 research results, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

27 (4) To serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding
28 women's health data, strategies, and programs that address any
29 women's health issues, including the following:

30 (A) Diseases that disproportionately impact women.

31 (B) Menopause.

32 (C) Osteoporosis.

33 (D) Cancer.

34 (E) Heart disease.

35 (F) Depression.

36 (G) Substance abuse.

37 (H) Sexually transmitted diseases.

38 (I) Healthy lifestyles.

39 (J) Pregnancy.

40 (K) Sexual assault.

41 (5) To seek funding from private or governmental entities for:

42 (A) office programs; or



1 **(B) initiatives supported by the office.**

2 **Sec. 5. The chief of the office must have the following**
 3 **qualifications and any additional qualifications that the state health**
 4 **commissioner considers appropriate:**

5 **(1) The equivalent of a master's degree or higher degree in**
 6 **health sciences, law, public health, medicine, or public**
 7 **administration, or related experiences in health care.**

8 **(2) Knowledge and expertise with women's health care,**
 9 **especially diseases that disproportionately impact women.**

10 **(3) Understanding of health care delivery systems.**

11 **Sec. 6. The majority of the chief of the office's efforts must focus**
 12 **on the following responsibilities:**

13 **(1) Identifying issues that affect women's health during each of**
 14 **the reproductive, menopausal, and postmenopausal stages of**
 15 **the women's life cycle with a focus on any diseases that**
 16 **disproportionately impact women.**

17 **(2) Advocating for women's health concerns within the state**
 18 **department, state government, and the community.**

19 **(3) Serving as a liaison for health care providers, interest**
 20 **groups, the state department, and other state agencies on issues**
 21 **that affect women's health.**

22 **(4) Developing recommendations to the state health**
 23 **commissioner regarding programs addressing women's health**
 24 **issues for inclusion in the state department's biennial budget**
 25 **and strategic planning.**

26 **(5) Providing technical assistance to public entities seeking to**
 27 **obtain funds for programs or initiatives in women's health,**
 28 **including sources of funding and grant writing assistance.**

29 **Sec. 7. In addition to the responsibilities under section 6 of this**
 30 **chapter, the chief of the office shall do the following:**

31 **(1) Develop and recommend funding and program activities for**
 32 **educating the public on women's health initiatives including:**

33 **(A) health needs throughout the life cycle;**

34 **(B) diseases that disproportionately impact women;**

35 **(C) reproductive health;**

36 **(D) access to health care for women;**

37 **(E) poverty and women's health;**

38 **(F) the leading causes of morbidity and mortality for**
 39 **women;**

40 **(G) violence and women's health; and**

41 **(H) any other women's health issues that the chief of the**
 42 **office considers important.**



- 1 (2) Prepare materials for publication and dissemination to the
2 public on women's health.
- 3 (3) Conduct public educational forums in Indiana to raise
4 public awareness and to educate citizens about women's health
5 programs, issues, and services.
- 6 (4) Coordinate the activities and programs of the office with
7 other entities that focus on women's health such as the Center
8 for Excellence in Women's Health.
- 9 (5) Supervise the administrative assistant and any other
10 employees assigned to the office.
- 11 (6) Oversee the administrative operations of the office.
- 12 (7) Represent the state health commissioner, upon request,
13 before the general assembly and the Indiana commission for
14 women established by IC 4-23-25-2.
- 15 (8) Provide an annual report to the governor's office, the
16 legislative council, and the Indiana commission for women
17 regarding the successes of the programs of the office, priorities
18 and services needed for women's health in Indiana, and areas
19 for improvement.
- 20 Sec. 8. (a) Before the state health commissioner submits the state
21 department's biennial budget request, the office shall submit a
22 written report to the state health commissioner recommending
23 programs, projects, funding, and research to address important
24 women's health issues in Indiana.
- 25 (b) After considering the report submitted under subsection (a),
26 the state health commissioner shall develop and implement biennial
27 initiatives and funding for women's health needs.
- 28 Sec. 9. (a) As used in this section, "advisory committee" refers to
29 the advisory committee on women's health.
- 30 (b) The state health commissioner shall appoint an advisory
31 committee to assist in advising the chief of the office regarding the
32 initiatives, services, and educational programs required under this
33 chapter.
- 34 (c) The advisory committee must be comprised of persons with an
35 expertise in and knowledge of women's health issues in Indiana.
- 36 (d) The state health commissioner shall:
- 37 (1) determine the number of persons to serve on the advisory
38 committee;
- 39 (2) appoint a chairperson for the advisory committee; and
- 40 (3) establish the policies and procedures under which the
41 advisory committee shall operate.

