

# HOUSE BILL No. 1356

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 16-18-2-96; IC 16-18-2-254.5; IC 16-19-13.

**Synopsis:** Office of women's health. Establishes the office of women's health within the state department of health. Describes the purposes of the office. Requires the commissioner of the state department of health to appoint a director of the office and any other necessary employees to staff the office. Requires the state health commissioner to appoint an advisory committee on women's health to advise the director of the office regarding duties relating to the office. Makes an appropriation.

**Effective:** July 1, 1999.

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**Crosby, Becker, Kruzan, Welch**

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January 12, 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

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Introduced

First Regular Session 111th General Assembly (1999)

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 1998 General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1356

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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 16-18-2-96 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 96. (a) **"Director", for**  
3 **purposes of IC 16-19-13, refers to the director of the office of**  
4 **women's health established by IC 16-19-13.**

5 (b) "Director", for purposes of IC 16-28, IC 16-29, and IC 16-30,  
6 means the individual acting under the authority of and assigned the  
7 responsibility by the state health commissioner to implement IC 16-28,  
8 IC 16-29, and IC 16-30.

9 ~~(b)~~ (c) "Director", for purposes of IC 16-31, refers to the director of  
10 the state emergency management agency established under  
11 IC 10-8-2-1.

12 ~~(c)~~ (d) "Director", for purposes of IC 16-35-2, refers to the director  
13 of the program for children with special health care needs.

14 SECTION 2. IC 16-18-2-254.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
15 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
16 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: **Sec. 254.5. "Office", for purposes of**  
17 **IC 16-19-13, refers to the office of women's health established by**



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1 **IC 16-19-13.**

2 SECTION 3. IC 16-19-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
3 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
4 JULY 1, 1999]:

5 **Chapter 13. Office of Women's Health**

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

8 **Sec. 2.** The office of women's health is established within the  
9 state department.

10 **Sec. 3.** The office is established for the following purposes:

11 (1) To educate and advocate for women's health by requesting  
12 that the state department, either on its own or in partnership  
13 with other entities, establish appropriate forums, programs,  
14 or initiatives designed to educate the public regarding  
15 women's health, with an emphasis on preventive health and  
16 healthy lifestyles.

17 (2) To assist the state health commissioner in identifying,  
18 coordinating, and establishing priorities for programs,  
19 services, and resources the state should provide for women's  
20 health issues and concerns relating to the reproductive,  
21 menopausal, and postmenopausal phases of a woman's life,  
22 with an emphasis on postmenopausal health.

23 (3) To serve as a clearinghouse and resource for information  
24 regarding women's health data, strategies, services, and  
25 programs that address women's health issues, including the  
26 following:

27 (A) Diseases that disproportionately impact women,  
28 including heart disease, cancer, and osteoporosis.

29 (B) Menopause.

30 (C) Mental health.

31 (D) Substance abuse.

32 (E) Sexually transmitted diseases.

33 (F) Sexual assault and domestic violence.

34 (4) To collect, classify, and analyze relevant research  
35 information and data conducted or compiled by:

36 (A) the state department; or

37 (B) other entities in collaboration with the state  
38 department;

39 and to provide interested persons with information regarding  
40 the research results, except as prohibited by law.

41 (5) To develop and recommend funding and program  
42 activities for educating the public on women's health



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1 initiatives, including the following:

2 (A) Health needs throughout the woman's life.

3 (B) Diseases that disproportionately affect women,  
4 including heart disease, cancer, and osteoporosis.

5 (C) Access to health care for women.

6 (D) Poverty and women's health.

7 (E) The leading causes of morbidity and mortality for  
8 women.

9 (F) Any other women's health issues that the director  
10 considers important.

11 (6) To make recommendations to the state health  
12 commissioner regarding programs that address women's  
13 health issues for inclusion in the state department's biennial  
14 budget and strategic planning.

15 (7) To seek funding from private or governmental entities to  
16 carry out the purposes of this chapter.

17 (8) To prepare materials for publication and dissemination to  
18 the public on women's health.

19 (9) To conduct public educational forums in Indiana to raise  
20 public awareness and to educate citizens about women's  
21 health programs, issues, and services.

22 (10) To coordinate the activities and programs of the office  
23 with other entities that focus on women's health or women's  
24 issues, including the Indiana commission for women  
25 (IC 4-23-25-3).

26 (11) Represent the state health commissioner, upon request,  
27 before the general assembly and the Indiana commission for  
28 women established by IC 4-23-25-3.

29 (12) Provide an annual report to the governor, the legislative  
30 council, and the Indiana commission for women regarding the  
31 successes of the programs of the office, priorities and services  
32 needed for women's health in Indiana, and areas for  
33 improvement.

34 **Sec. 4. (a) The state health commissioner shall appoint persons  
35 to staff the office, including:**

36 (1) the director of the office; and

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

39 (b) The employees appointed under subsection (a)(2) shall  
40 report to the director. The director shall report to the state health  
41 commissioner.

42 (c) The director shall supervise the employees assigned to the

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office.

(d) The director shall oversee the administrative functions of the office.

Sec. 5. (a) The state health commissioner shall appoint an advisory committee on women's health to assist in advising the director regarding the duties required under this chapter.

(b) The advisory committee is comprised of persons with an expertise in and a knowledge of women's health issues in Indiana.

(c) The state health commissioner shall:

(1) determine the number of persons to serve on the advisory committee;

(2) appoint a chairperson or co-chairpersons for the advisory committee; and

(3) establish the policies and procedures under which the advisory committee operates.

SECTION 4. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999] (a) There is appropriated to the office of women's health under IC 16-19-13, as added by this act, five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the state general fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001.

(b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2001.

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