

House Bill No. 1289

An act relating to the testing of inmates for HIV; creating s. 945.355, F.S.; defining the term “HIV test”; requiring the Department of Corrections to perform an HIV test before an inmate is released if the inmate’s HIV status is unknown; providing certain exceptions; requiring that the Department of Corrections notify the Department of Health and the county health department where the inmate plans to reside following release if the inmate is HIV positive; requiring the department to provide special transitional assistance to an inmate who is HIV positive; requiring the department to report to the Legislature; amending s. 945.10, F.S.; requiring that certain medical records be released to the Department of Health and the county health department where an inmate who is HIV positive plans to reside; reenacting s. 945.10(1)(a), F.S., relating to mental health, medical, or substance abuse records of an inmate; amending s. 381.004, F.S.; providing that informed consent is not required for an HIV test of an inmate prior to the inmate’s release; amending s. 944.704, F.S.; providing additional duties for the department with respect to transition assistance for inmates who are HIV positive; limiting liability; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, HIV and AIDS infections are one of the state’s most critical challenges, with Florida having the third highest number of AIDS cases in the nation and the second highest number of pediatric AIDS cases, and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of HIV and AIDS cases in the state’s prisons exceeds the prevalence of HIV and AIDS in the general population, and

WHEREAS, between 1989 and 1997, death due to AIDS accounted for over half of inmate deaths in the state’s prisons, and

WHEREAS, recent advances in treatment for HIV and AIDS can potentially reduce the number of opportunistic infections and associated medical costs and delay the onset of death due to the disease, and

WHEREAS, referral to appropriate medical and social services upon the release of an inmate can play a crucial role in the treatment, care, and secondary prevention efforts, NOW THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 945.355, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

945.355 HIV testing of inmates prior to release.—

(1) As used in this section, the term “HIV test” means a test ordered to determine the presence of the antibody or antigen to human immunodeficiency virus or the presence of human immunodeficiency virus infection.

(2) If an inmate's HIV status is unknown to the department, the department shall, pursuant to s. 381.004(3), perform an HIV test on the inmate not less than 60 days prior to the inmate's presumptive release date from prison by reason of parole, accumulation of gain-time credits, or expiration of sentence. An inmate who is known to the department to be HIV positive or who has been tested within the previous year and does not request retesting need not be tested under this section, but is subject to subsections (4) and (5). However, an inmate who is released due to an emergency is exempt from the provisions of this section.

(3) The department shall record the results of the HIV test in the inmate's medical record.

(4) Pursuant to ss. 381.004(3) and 945.10, the department shall notify the Department of Health and the county health department where the inmate plans to reside regarding an inmate who is known to be HIV positive or has received an HIV positive test result under this section prior to the release of that inmate.

(5) Prior to the release of an inmate who is known to be HIV positive or who has received a positive HIV test result under this section, the department shall 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 follow-up care and treatment.

(b) A written, individualized discharge plan that includes referrals to and contacts with the county health department and local HIV primary care services in the area where the inmate plans to reside.

(c) A 30-day supply of all HIV/AIDS-related medications that the inmate is taking prior to release under the protocols of the Department of Corrections and the treatment guidelines of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Section 2. By March 1, 2003, the Department of Corrections shall submit a report to the Legislature concerning the department's implementation of section 945.355, Florida Statutes. At a minimum, the report must include the total number of inmates tested under the program, the number of inmates who tested positive for HIV, the number of inmates who received special transitional assistance, and the number of inmates who received medication in accordance with protocols of the Department of Corrections and the treatment guidelines of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 945.10, Florida Statutes, is reenacted, and subsection (2) of that section is amended to read:

945.10 Confidential information.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided by law or in this section, the following records and information of the Department of Corrections are confidential

and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:

(a) Mental health, medical, or substance abuse records of an inmate or an offender.

(2) The records and information specified in paragraphs ~~(1)(b)-(h)~~ (1)(a)-(h) may be released as follows unless expressly prohibited by federal law:

(a) Information specified in paragraphs (1)(b), (d), and (f) to the Office of the Governor, the Legislature, the Parole Commission, the Department of Children and Family Services, a private correctional facility or program that operates under a contract, the Department of Legal Affairs, a state attorney, the court, or a law enforcement agency. A request for records or information pursuant to this paragraph need not be in writing.

(b) Information specified in paragraphs (1)(c), (e), and (h) to the Office of the Governor, the Legislature, the Parole Commission, the Department of Children and Family Services, a private correctional facility or program that operates under contract, the Department of Legal Affairs, a state attorney, the court, or a law enforcement agency. A request for records or information pursuant to this paragraph must be in writing and a statement provided demonstrating a need for the records or information.

(c) Information specified in paragraph (1)(b) to an attorney representing an inmate under sentence of death, except those portions of the records containing a victim's statement or address, or the statement or address of a relative of the victim. A request for records of information pursuant to this paragraph must be in writing and a statement provided demonstrating a need for the records or information.

(d) Information specified in paragraph (1)(b) to a public defender representing a defendant, except those portions of the records containing a victim's statement or address, or the statement or address of a relative of the victim. A request for records or information pursuant to this paragraph need not be in writing.

(e) Information specified in paragraph (1)(b) to state or local governmental agencies. A request for records or information pursuant to this paragraph must be in writing and a statement provided demonstrating a need for the records or information.

(f) Information specified in paragraph (1)(b) to a person conducting legitimate research. A request for records and information pursuant to this paragraph must be in writing, the person requesting the records or information must sign a confidentiality agreement, and the department must approve the request in writing.

(g) Information specified in paragraph (1)(a) to the Department of Health and the county health department where an inmate plans to reside if he or she has tested positive for the presence of the antibody or antigen to human immunodeficiency virus infection.

Records and information released under this subsection remain confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution when held by the receiving person or entity.

Section 4. Paragraph (h) of 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.—

(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.b.~~ Testing for HIV by a medical examiner in accordance with s. 406.11.

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 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 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 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 shall 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 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 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 shall 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 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 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 5. Section 944.704, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

944.704 Staff who provide transition assistance; duties.—The department shall provide a transition assistance specialist at each of the major institutions whose duties include, but are not limited to:

(1) Coordinating delivery of transition assistance program services at the institution and at the community correctional centers authorized pursuant to s. 945.091(1)(b).

(2) Assisting in the development of each inmate's postrelease plan.

(3) Obtaining job placement information.

(4) Providing a written medical-discharge plan and referral to a county health department.

(5) For an inmate who is known to be HIV positive, providing a 30-day supply of all HIV/AIDS-related medication that the inmate is taking prior to release, if required under protocols of the Department of Corrections and treatment guidelines of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

~~(6)~~(4) Facilitating placement in a private transition housing program, if requested by any eligible inmate. If an inmate who is nearing his or her date of release requests placement in a contracted substance abuse transition housing program, the transition assistance specialist shall inform the inmate of program availability and assess the inmate's need and suitability for transition housing assistance. If an inmate is approved for placement, the specialist shall assist the inmate and coordinate the release of the inmate with the selected program. If an inmate requests and is approved for placement in a contracted faith-based substance abuse transition housing program, the specialist must consult with the chaplain prior to such placement. In selecting inmates who are nearing their date of release for placement in a faith-based program, the department shall ensure that an inmate's faith orientation, or lack thereof, will not be considered in determining admission to the program and that the program does not attempt to convert an inmate toward a particular faith or religious preference.

~~(7)~~(5) Providing a photo identification card to all inmates prior to their release.

The transition assistance specialist may not be a correctional officer or correctional probation officer as defined in s. 943.10.

Section 6. Notwithstanding any provision of the Florida Statutes providing for a waiver of sovereign immunity, neither the state, its agencies, subdivisions nor employees of the state, its agencies, or subdivisions shall be liable to any person for negligently causing death or personal injury arising out of complying with section 944.355, Florida Statutes.

Section 7. The sum of \$793,244 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Corrections for the 2002-2003 fiscal year for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this act.

Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 2002.