

House Bill No. 869

An act relating to Crohn's and Colitis disease research; creating the Crohn's and Colitis Disease Research Act; requiring the Department of Health to conduct an inflammatory bowel disease epidemiology study with the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to conduct a chronic disease study on the coverage standards provided by Medicaid for inflammatory bowel disease therapies; providing for membership in a study group; requiring reports to the Governor and Legislature; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis (collectively known as IBD) are chronic disorders of the gastrointestinal tract which afflict approximately 47,000 Floridians, and

WHEREAS, inflammatory bowel disease can cause abdominal pain, fever, and rectal bleeding and complications may include arthritis, osteoporosis, anemia, liver disease, and colon cancer, and

WHEREAS, inflammatory bowel disease represents a major cause of morbidity from digestive illness and, although it is not fatal, inflammatory bowel disease is often devastating, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Crohn's and Colitis Disease Research Act."

Section 2. Studies; reports.—

(1) The Department of Health, in conjunction with the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions, shall conduct an inflammatory bowel disease epidemiology study. The goal of the study is to gain a better understanding of the prevalence of the disease in the state, the unique demographic characteristics of the patient population, and the role that environmental factors and family history play in the development of the disease. The Department of Health is authorized to convene a study group for the purpose of conducting an epidemiological study of inflammatory bowel disease in order to collect demographic information on the characteristics of the patient population affected by this disease. The study group shall consist of a representative of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, a representative from one or more of the major universities researching this disease, a representative from the Agency for Health Care Administration, a representative from the Department of Health, including department epidemiologists, a representative from medical providers, one member of the House of Representatives, one member of the Senate, and any other individual the department considers appropriate to participate in the study group. The department shall submit a report of its findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2006.

(2) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall conduct a chronic disease study on Medicaid coverage for therapies required by patients with inflammatory bowel disease, such as ostomy supplies, parenteral nutrition, enteral nutrition, medically necessary food products, and therapies approved by the Food and Drug Administration for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. The study will take into consideration the appropriate outpatient or home health care settings, identify gaps in Medicaid coverage that impact the health and quality of life for inflammatory bowel disease patients, and empower the inflammatory bowel disease community to pursue appropriate changes in the Medicaid reimbursement policy. The agency shall submit a report of its findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2006.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

Approved by the Governor June 10, 2005.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 10, 2005.