

Committee Substitute for  
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2260

An act relating to the Department of Health; amending s. 20.43, F.S.; deleting the designation of Secretary of Health and including the designation of State Surgeon General as the head of the Department of Health; providing requirements for the position; providing duties for the State Surgeon General; conforming references; amending s. 381.0605, F.S.; clarifying that the Surgeon General referred to in s. 381.0605, F.S., is the Surgeon General of the United States; requiring the Division of Statutory Revision of the Office of Legislative Services to change references to the Secretary of Health to the Surgeon General within the Florida Statutes; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (2), (5), and (6) of section 20.43, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

20.43 Department of Health.—There is created a Department of Health.

(2)(a) The head of the Department of Health is the State Surgeon General ~~Secretary of Health~~ and State Health Officer. The State Surgeon General ~~secretary~~ must be a physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 who has advanced training or extensive experience in public health administration. The State Surgeon General ~~secretary~~ is appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate. The State Surgeon General ~~secretary~~ serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The State Surgeon General shall serve as the leading voice on wellness and disease-prevention efforts, including the promotion of healthful lifestyles, immunization practices, health literacy, and the assessment and promotion of the physician and health care workforce in order to meet the health care needs of the state. The State Surgeon General shall focus on advocating healthy lifestyles, developing public health policy, and building collaborative partnerships with schools, businesses, health care practitioners, community-based organizations, and public and private institutions in order to promote health literacy and optimum quality of life for all Floridians.

(b) The Officer of Women's Health Strategy is established within the Department of Health and shall report directly to the State Surgeon General ~~secretary~~.

(5) The department shall plan and administer its public health programs through its county health departments and may, for administrative purposes and efficient service delivery, establish up to 15 service areas to carry out such duties as may be prescribed by the State Surgeon General ~~secretary~~. The boundaries of the service areas shall be the same as, or combinations of, the service districts of the Department of Children and Family Services established in s. 20.19 and, to the extent practicable, shall take into consideration the boundaries of the jobs and education regional boards.

(6) The State Surgeon General ~~secretary~~ and division directors are authorized to appoint ad hoc advisory committees as necessary. The issue or problem that the ad hoc committee shall address, and the timeframe within which the committee is to complete its work, shall be specified at the time the committee is appointed. Ad hoc advisory committees shall include representatives of groups or entities affected by the issue or problem that the committee is asked to examine. Members of ad hoc advisory committees shall receive no compensation, but may, within existing departmental resources, receive reimbursement for travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 381.0605, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.0605 Survey of state hospital facilities; Agency for Health Care Administration.—

(2) The Governor is authorized to provide for carrying out such purposes in accordance with the standards prescribed by the Surgeon General of the United States.

Section 3. The Division of Statutory Revision of the Office of Legislative Services shall change “Secretary of Health” or “Secretary of the Department of Health” to “State Surgeon General” and change “secretary,” with respect to that department, to “State Surgeon General” wherever the same appears in Florida Statutes.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor May 22, 2007.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 22, 2007.