



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH**

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**House Bill 4671**

**Sponsor: Rep. Teola P. Hunter**

**Committee: Public Health**

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**Complete to 5-4-89**

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4671 AS INTRODUCED 4-19-89**

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to create the Office of Minority Health and the Minority Health Advisory Committee in the Department of Public Health (DPH). "Minority" would be defined to mean Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and Arab-Americans.

Office of Minority Health. The director of the Office of Minority Health would be appointed by, and report to, the director of the DPH. The office would be responsible for a number of investigative, advocacy, educational, and funding activities related to minority health, including:

- \* investigating (and reporting to the governor, the legislature, and the director of the DPH) conditions affecting the health of minorities;
- \* making recommendations (to the director of the DPH and to the governor) on how to eliminate inequities between minority and majority health status and on budget and grant requests for minority health programs;
- \* advocating measures to improve minority health;
- \* helping establish new minority health programs, as well as helping agencies and groups to improve existing minority health programs;
- \* funding community-based organizations to develop model programs for improving minority health;
- \* increasing public and governmental awareness of minority health issues;
- \* develop and implement an AIDS education and prevention program addressing minority needs;
- \* forming and coordinating a network of community health action teams to implement and monitor programs in communities;
- \* providing information on minority health promotion programs;
- \* evaluating the impact of state and federal law on minority health, and recommending appropriate changes to the governor, the legislature, and the director of the DPH;
- \* providing minorities with opportunities to comment on policy development and program implementation; and
- \* any other activities assigned by the director of the DPH.

Minority Health Advisory Committee. The bill also would create an eleven-member Minority Health Advisory Committee in the DPH, under the jurisdiction of the Public Health Advisory Council, to advise the director of the Office of Minority Health on how to improve the health status of minorities in Michigan.

The governor would appoint the advisory committee members with a representative from each of the following groups: each of the minority groups listed in the bill (Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and Arab-Americans); public health care agencies; private health care agencies; community organizations; the medical profession; and institutional health care providers. The governor also would appoint a member of the Public Health Advisory Council to chair the Minority Health Advisory

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Committee. Members would serve for two years and be reimbursed for travel expenses for attending committee meetings. Like other advisory committees to the DPH, the committee would be terminated two years after its creation unless the Public Health Advisory Council recommended its continuation.

MCL 333.2501 et al.