

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4401 AS INTRODUCED 3-25-91

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to create an Office of Minority Health and a minority health advisory committee in the Department of Public Health (DPH). The bill would define "minority" to mean "an ethnic person of color including, but not limited to, a Black, an Hispanic, a Native American, an Asian including, but not limited to, a Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Southeast Asian, Samoan, or Pacific Islander, a Filipino, or an Arab-American."

Office of Minority Health. The director of the Office of Minority Health would be appointed by, and report to, the director of the Department of Public Health. 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 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 the health status of minorities and that of the majority, as well as on budget and grant requests for minority health programs;
- * advocating measures to improve minority health;
- * offering consultation and technical assistance to agencies and groups trying to improve minority health programs;
- * funding community-based organizations to develop model programs for improving minority health;
- * increasing public and governmental awareness of minority health status;
- * developing and implementing an AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) 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

- * performing 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 existing Public Health Advisory Council) to advise the office and the director of the DPH on how to improve the health status of minorities in Michigan. The governor would appoint committee members for two-year terms, appointing a member of the Public Health Advisory Council to chair the committee. Other committee members would be appointed from each of the groups included in the definition of "minority," as well as from public and private health care agencies, community organizations, the medical profession, and institutional health care providers. Like other advisory committees in the health department, the committee could be terminated two years after its creation unless the Public Health Advisory Council recommended its continuation.

MCL 333.2501 et al.