

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 342
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and Pugh” and substitute “Pugh, and Conroy”; in line 2, before “Disease” insert “Department of Health and Mental Hygiene -”; in the same line, strike “Advisory Council” and substitute “Virus”; strike beginning with “establishing” in line 3 down through “Council” in line 13 and substitute “requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a certain needs assessment, initiate a certain public awareness campaign, and coordinate with certain units of State government to activate a certain hepatitis C virus plan; requiring the Department to solicit certain funding for hepatitis C virus outreach; requiring the Department to provide funding for certain pilot programs if funds are available; requiring the Department to review and recommend certain hepatitis C virus initiatives; requiring the Department to assess the feasibility of creating a hepatitis C virus administration in the Department and to examine ways to maximize existing resources to raise hepatitis C virus awareness; requiring the Department to implement a certain report as funds are available; requiring the Department to make a certain annual report to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the hepatitis C virus”; in line 16, strike “through 18-1009, inclusive,” and substitute “and 18-1002”; and in line 17, strike “Advisory Council” and substitute “Virus”.

On page 2, in line 20, strike “ADVISORY COUNCIL” and substitute “VIRUS”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 21, insert:

“THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE THE INCIDENCE OF THE HEPATITIS C VIRUS IN THE STATE;

(Over)

(2) INITIATE A STATEWIDE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TARGETING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE STATE TO URGE HEPATITIS C VIRUS EDUCATION AND TESTING;

(3) COORDINATE WITH OTHER UNITS OF STATE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION, TO ACTIVATE A HEPATITIS C VIRUS PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION, TESTING, AND TREATMENT OF THE POPULATIONS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITS;

(4) SOLICIT FUNDING FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND UNITS OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR HEPATITIS C VIRUS OUTREACH;

(5) IF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, PROVIDE FUNDING FOR HEPATITIS C VIRUS PILOT PROGRAMS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE PROGRAMS IN METHADONE CLINICS OR PROGRAMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES POPULATION;

(6) REVIEW AND RECOMMEND INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, PHYSICIAN OUTREACH, AND AWARENESS OF THE HEPATITIS C VIRUS;

(7) ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A HEPATITIS C VIRUS ADMINISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT AND EXAMINE METHODS TO MAXIMIZE EXISTING RESOURCES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE HEPATITIS C VIRUS; AND

(8) IMPLEMENT THE 2005 REPORT OF THE HEPATITIS C ADVISORY COUNCIL, AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.

18-1002.

ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2006, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT IN IMPLEMENTING § 18-1001 OF THIS SUBTITLE.”.

On pages 2 through 5, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 22 on page 2 through line 15 on page 5, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 5, in line 17, strike “October” and substitute “July”; in the same line, after “years” insert “and 6 months”; and in line 18, strike “September 30” and substitute “December 31”.