

AN ACT in relation to health.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Department of Public Health Powers and
Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
amended by adding Sections 2310-376, 2310-377, and 2310-378
as follows:

(20 ILCS 2310/2310-376 new)

Sec. 2310-376. Hepatitis C education and outreach.

(a) The Illinois General Assembly finds and declares the
following:

(1) The World Health Organization characterizes
Hepatitis C as a disease of primary concern to humanity.

(2) Hepatitis C is considered a silent killer; no
recognizable signs or symptoms occur until severe liver
damage has occurred.

(3) Studies indicate that nearly 4 million
Americans (1.8 percent of the population) carry the virus
HCV that causes the disease.

(4) 30,000 acute new infections occur each year in
the United States, and only 25 to 30 percent are
diagnosed.

(5) 8,000 to 10,000 Americans die from the disease
each year.

(6) 200,000 Illinois residents may be carriers and
could develop the debilitating and potentially deadly
liver disease.

(7) Inmates of correctional facilities have a
higher incidence of Hepatitis C and, upon their release,
present a significant health risk to the general
population.

(b) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall conduct an education and outreach campaign, in addition to its overall effort to prevent infectious disease in Illinois, in order to raise awareness about and promote prevention of Hepatitis C.

(20 ILCS 2310/2310-377 new)

Sec. 2310-377. Lupus education and outreach.

(a) The Illinois General Assembly finds and declares the following:

(1) Lupus is a chronic, incurable auto-immune disease of unknown origin that mainly affects women of childbearing age, is difficult to diagnose, and causes severe, potentially life-threatening organ damage.

(2) The Lupus Foundation of America estimates that 1.4 million people in the U.S. have a form of lupus.

(3) Lupus causes the immune system to attack the body's healthy cells and tissues producing skin damage, rheumatoid arthritis, life-threatening inflammation of multiple major organs, and a potentially fatal failure of the renal, circulatory, or central nervous system.

(4) Symptoms include joint pain, rash, unusual loss of hair, unexplained fever, low blood counts, sensitivity to the sun, and fingers that turn pale or purple when exposed to cold.

(5) According to the Lupus Foundation of America, a survey of its members revealed that more than half of all people with lupus suffered 4 or more years and were examined by 3 or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis.

(6) According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of lupus-related deaths between 1979 and 1988 increased dramatically; African American women, ages 45-64, experienced a 70% increase, the

largest increase among all groups in the 20 years studied.

(b) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall conduct an education and outreach campaign in order to raise awareness about the symptoms and treatment of lupus, a potentially life-threatening disease.

(20 ILCS 2310/2310-378 new)

Sec. 2310-378. Wilson's disease.

(a) The Illinois General Assembly finds and declares the following:

(1) Wilson's disease is an inherited disorder in which excessive amounts of copper accumulate in the body and can cause liver disease and neurological or psychiatric disorders; and

(2) Successful treatment is available for sufferers of Wilson's disease but, without proper treatment, the disease is generally fatal by the age of 30.

(b) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall: (i) conduct a public health information campaign for physicians, hospitals, health facilities, public health departments, and the general public on Wilson's disease, methods of care, and treatment modalities available; (ii) identify and catalog Wilson's disease resources in this State for distribution and referral purposes; and (iii) coordinate services with established programs, including State, federal, and voluntary groups.