GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

2006 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 540

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2006

The following bill was reported to the Senate from the House and ordered to be printed.

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TREY GRAYSON
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY R. Adler

AN ACT relating to hepatitis C.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

1 SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 214 IS CREATED TO
2 READ AS FOLLOWS:
3 ***(1) The Department of Public Health shall develop a statewide education, awareness,***
4 ***and information program on hepatitis C. The hepatitis C education, awareness,***
5 ***and information program may be incorporated into other existing health***
6 ***education programs. The Department for Public Health may make available on***
7 ***its Internet Web site protocols, guidelines, and materials for hepatitis C***
8 ***education, awareness, and information programs that increase the understanding***
9 ***of the disease among general and high-risk populations.***
10 ***(2) The hepatitis C education, awareness, and information program may include***
11 ***material to specifically address individuals who may be at high risk of infection,***
12 ***including but not limited to law enforcement officials, corrections personnel,***
13 ***prisoners, veterans, individuals who received blood transfusions prior to 1992,***
14 ***hemophiliacs, students, and minority communities. The program may utilize***
15 ***education materials developed by health-related companies and community-based***
16 ***or national advocacy organizations. The program may include but not be limited***
17 ***to counseling, patient support groups, and existing hotlines for consumers.***
18 ***(3) In developing the hepatitis C education, awareness, and information program,***
19 ***the department shall consult the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, the***
20 ***University of Louisville School of Medicine, the Pikeville College School of***
21 ***Osteopathic Medicine, the American Liver Foundation, the Centers for Disease***
22 ***Control and Prevention, and any other scientific, medical, or advocacy***
23 ***organizations to develop the protocols and guidelines for the hepatitis C***
24 ***education, awareness, and information program. The protocols and guidelines***
25 ***may include, but are not limited to the following:***

1 *(a) The risk factors associated with hepatitis C acquisition and transmission;*
2 *(b) The most recent scientific and medical information on hepatitis C*
3 *prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and therapeutic decision*
4 *making;*
5 *(c) Tracking and reporting of acute cases of hepatitis C by public health*
6 *officials;*
7 *(d) Protocols for public safety and health care workers who come in contact*
8 *with hepatitis C patients; and*
9 *(e) Surveillance programs to determine the prevalence of hepatitis C in ethnic*
10 *and other high-risk populations.*
11 *(4) The Department for Public Health may coordinate with the Department of*
12 *Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Corrections to establish specific*
13 *recommendations for the hepatitis C education, awareness, and information*
14 *program. The protocols and guidelines established by the Department of Public*
15 *Health, the Department of Corrections, and the Department for Veterans' Affairs*
16 *may include topics specified in subsection (3) of this section and may include, but*
17 *are not limited to protocols within state agencies to enable departments to provide*
18 *appropriate treatment for individuals with hepatitis C, protocols for the education*
19 *of state agency officials and other employees who work with individuals with*
20 *hepatitis C, and protocols within the Department of Corrections to provide*
21 *written hepatitis C information to prisoners on the date of their probation, parole,*
22 *or release.*
23 *(5) The Department for Public Health shall report on the hepatitis C education,*
24 *awareness, and information program to the Interim Joint Committee on Health*
25 *and Welfare by December 1, 2006, and every six (6) months thereafter, or upon*
26 *request of the committee.*

Speaker-House of Representatives

President of the Senate

Attest: Chief Clerk of House of Representatives

Approved Governor

Date 4/4/06