

August 25, 2009

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois House of Representatives,
96th General Assembly:

Today, I return House Bill 927 with a specific recommendation for change. This bill promotes good health and well-being—goals that each of should attempt to implement into our lifestyles. As Governor, I am committed to making sure that there are entities within our state government that can assist people in adopting good health practices.

Therefore, pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return House Bill 927, entitled "AN ACT concerning regulation.", with the following specific recommendation for change:

on page 2, below line 13, by inserting the following:

"Section 7. The Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is amended by adding Section 2310-640 as follows:

(20 ILCS 2310/2310-640 new)

Sec. 2310-640. Public Health Advocate; wellness planning.

(a) There is created within the Department of Public Health an office to be known as the Office of the Public Health Advocate. The office shall be headed by the Public Health Advocate who shall be appointed by the Governor to a term of 4 years.

(b) Subject to appropriation, and in cooperation with the Department of Insurance, the Office shall provide information and assistance to consumers by:

(1) developing wellness programs to improve public health through education, counseling, and identifying health risks;

(2) creating educational programs, recommending strategies for preventing illness, and developing cures for diabetes;

(3) assisting consumers in understanding public health programs and coverage provisions such as wellness coverage;

(4) educating consumers about their rights within public health programs;

(5) analyzing, monitoring, and making publicly available reports on the development and implementation of federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and other governmental policies and actions that pertain to the adequacy of public health programs, facilities, and services;

(6) conducting, supporting, and assisting research, surveys, investigations, conferences, projects, and informational activities concerning the interests of health care consumers; and

(7) performing all duties assigned to the Office by the Director of Public Health."

With this change, House Bill 927 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,

PAT QUINN
Governor