



Rep. Charles E. Jefferson

Filed: 4/8/2014

09800HB3845ham001

LRB098 15393 RPM 58302 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 3845

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 3845 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Department of Public Health Powers and  
5 Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is  
6 amended by renumbering and changing Section 2310-665 as added  
7 by Public Act 98-493 as follows:

8 (20 ILCS 2310/2310-675)

9 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2016)

10 Sec. 2310-675 ~~2310-665~~. Hepatitis C Task Force.

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

12 (1) Viral hepatitis is a contagious and  
13 life-threatening disease that has a substantial and  
14 increasing effect upon the lifespans and quality of life of  
15 at least 5,000,000 persons living in the United States and  
16 as many as 180,000,000 worldwide. According to the U.S.

1 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the chronic  
2 form of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) and hepatitis B virus  
3 (HBV) account for the vast majority of hepatitis-related  
4 mortalities in the U.S., yet as many as 65% to 75% of  
5 infected Americans remain unaware that they are infected  
6 with the virus, prompting the U.S. Centers for Disease  
7 Control and Prevention (CDC) to label these viruses as the  
8 silent epidemic. HCV and HBV are major public health  
9 problems that cause chronic liver diseases, such as  
10 cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer. The 5-year  
11 survival rate for primary liver cancer is less than 5%.  
12 These viruses are also the leading cause of liver  
13 transplantation in the United States. While there is a  
14 vaccine for HBV, no vaccine exists for HCV. However, there  
15 are anti-viral treatments for HCV that can improve the  
16 prognosis or actually clear the virus from the patient's  
17 system. Unfortunately, the vast majority of infected  
18 patients remain unaware that they have the virus since  
19 there are generally no symptoms. Therefore, there is a dire  
20 need to aid the public in identifying certain risk factors  
21 that would warrant testing for these viruses. Millions of  
22 infected patients remain undiagnosed and continue to be at  
23 elevated risks for developing more serious complications.  
24 More needs to be done to educate the public about this  
25 disease and the risk factors that warrant testing. In some  
26 cases, infected patients play an unknowing role in further

1 spreading this infectious disease.

2 (2) The existence of HCV was definitively published and  
3 discovered by medical researchers in 1989. Prior to this  
4 date, HCV is believed to have spread unchecked. The  
5 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
6 (AASLD) recommends that primary care physicians screen all  
7 patients for a history of any viral hepatitis risk factor  
8 and test those individuals with at least one identifiable  
9 risk factor for the virus. Some of the most common risk  
10 factors have been identified by AASLD, HHS, and the U.S.  
11 Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as other public  
12 health and medical research organizations, and include the  
13 following:

14 (A) anyone who has received a blood transfusion  
15 prior to 1992;

16 (B) anyone who is a Vietnam-era veteran;

17 (C) anyone who has abnormal liver function tests;

18 (D) anyone infected with the HIV virus;

19 (E) anyone who has used a needle to inject drugs;

20 (F) any health care, emergency medical, or public  
21 safety worker who has been stuck by a needle or exposed  
22 to any mucosal fluids of an HCV-infected person; and

23 (G) any children born to HCV-infected mothers.

24 A 1994 study determined that Caucasian Americans  
25 statistically accounted for the most number of infected  
26 persons in the United States, while the highest incidence

1 rates were among African and Hispanic Americans.

2 (3) In January of 2010, the Institute of Medicine  
3 (IOM), commissioned by the CDC, issued a comprehensive  
4 report entitled *Hepatitis and Liver Cancer: A National*  
5 *Strategy for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis B and C*.  
6 The key findings and recommendations from the IOM's report  
7 are (A) there is a lack of knowledge and awareness about  
8 chronic viral hepatitis on the part of health care and  
9 social service providers, (B) there is a lack of knowledge  
10 and awareness about chronic viral hepatitis among at-risk  
11 populations, members of the public, and policy makers, and  
12 (C) there is insufficient understanding about the extent  
13 and seriousness of the public health problem, so inadequate  
14 public resources are being allocated to prevention,  
15 control, and surveillance programs.

16 (4) In this same 2010 IOM report, researchers compared  
17 the prevalence and incidences of HCV, HBV, and HIV and  
18 found that, although there are only 1,100,000 HIV/AIDS  
19 infected persons in the United States and over 4,000,000  
20 Americans infected with viral hepatitis, the percentage of  
21 those with HIV that are unaware they have HIV is only 21%  
22 as opposed to approximately 70% of those with viral  
23 hepatitis being unaware that they have viral hepatitis. It  
24 appears that public awareness of risk factors associated  
25 with each of these diseases could be a major factor in the  
26 alarming disparity between the percentage of the

1 population that is infected with one of these blood  
2 viruses, but unaware that they are infected.

3 (5) In light of the widely varied nature of the risk  
4 factors mentioned in this subsection (a), the previous  
5 findings by the Institute of Medicine, and the clear  
6 evidence of the disproportional public awareness between  
7 HIV and viral hepatitis, it is clearly in the public  
8 interest for this State to establish a task force to gather  
9 testimony and develop an action plan to (A) increase public  
10 awareness of the risk factors for these viruses, (B)  
11 improve access to screening for these viruses, and (C)  
12 provide those infected with information about the  
13 prognosis, treatment options, and elevated risk of  
14 developing cirrhosis and liver cancer. There is clear and  
15 increasing evidence that many adults in Illinois and in the  
16 United States have at least one of the risk factors  
17 mentioned in this subsection (a).

18 (6) The General Assembly also finds that it is in the  
19 public interest to bring communities of Illinois-based  
20 veterans of American military service into familiarity  
21 with the issues created by this disease, because many  
22 veterans, especially Vietnam-era veterans, have at least  
23 one of the previously enumerated risk factors and are  
24 especially prone to being affected by this disease; and  
25 because veterans of American military service should enjoy  
26 in all cases, and do enjoy in most cases, adequate access

1 to health care services that include medical management and  
2 care for preexisting and long-term medical conditions,  
3 such as infection with the hepatitis virus.

4 (b) There is established the Hepatitis C Task Force within  
5 the Department of Public Health. The purpose of the Task Force  
6 shall be to:

7 (1) develop strategies to identify and address the  
8 unmet needs of persons with hepatitis C in order to enhance  
9 the quality of life of persons with hepatitis C by  
10 maximizing productivity and independence and addressing  
11 emotional, social, financial, and vocational challenges of  
12 persons with hepatitis C;

13 (2) develop strategies to provide persons with  
14 hepatitis C greater access to various treatments and other  
15 therapeutic options that may be available; ~~and~~

16 (3) develop strategies to improve hepatitis C  
17 education and awareness; ~~and-~~

18 (4) develop strategies to track the occurrence of  
19 hepatitis C within the this State with regard to race and  
20 ethnicity.

21 (c) The Task Force shall consist of 17 members as follows:

22 (1) the Director of Public Health, the Director of  
23 Veterans' Affairs, and the Director of Human Services, or  
24 their designees, who shall serve ex officio;

25 (2) ten public members who shall be appointed by the  
26 Director of Public Health from the medical, patient, and

1 service provider communities, including, but not limited  
2 to, HCV Support, Inc.; and

3 (3) four members of the General Assembly, appointed one  
4 each by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of  
5 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
6 and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

7 Vacancies in the membership of the Task Force shall be  
8 filled in the same manner provided for in the original  
9 appointments.

10 (d) The Task Force shall organize within 120 days following  
11 the appointment of a majority of its members and shall select a  
12 chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members. The  
13 chairperson shall appoint a secretary, who need not be a member  
14 of the Task Force.

15 (e) The public members shall serve without compensation and  
16 shall not be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
17 performance of their duties, unless funds become available to  
18 the Task Force.

19 (f) The Task Force shall be entitled to call to its  
20 assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of  
21 any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau,  
22 commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available  
23 to it for its purposes.

24 (g) The Task Force may meet and hold hearings as it deems  
25 appropriate.

26 (h) The Department of Public Health shall provide staff

1 support to the Task Force.

2 (i) The Task Force shall report its findings and  
3 recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly,  
4 along with any legislative bills that it desires to recommend  
5 for adoption by the General Assembly, no later than December  
6 31, 2015.

7 (j) The Task Force is abolished and this Section is  
8 repealed on January 1, 2016.

9 (Source: P.A. 98-493, eff. 8-16-13; revised 9-12-13.)".