

1 HB579
2 168532-1
3 By Representative Todd
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 30-APR-15

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would authorize the Alabama
9 Department of Public Health to establish a needle
10 and syringe exchange program and would allow the
11 department to establish local programs through
12 local health departments or other local
13 organizations.

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15 A BILL
16 TO BE ENTITLED
17 AN ACT

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19 Relating to public health; to authorize the Alabama
20 Department of Public Health to establish a needle and syringe
21 exchange program under certain conditions.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

23 Section 1. (a) The Alabama Department of Public
24 Health shall establish a needle and syringe exchange program
25 and may authorize local programs through local health
26 departments or other local organizations.

27 (b) The program shall do all of the following:

1 (1) Be incorporated into any existing human
2 immunodeficiency virus prevention programs.

3 (2) Provide for free and confidential exchanges of
4 needles and syringes.

5 (3) Provide participants with an equal number of
6 needles and syringes for those returned.

7 (4) Provide first-time applicants with an initial
8 packet of thirty needles and syringes, educational material,
9 and a list of drug counseling services.

10 (5) Offer education on the transmission of the human
11 immunodeficiency virus and prevention measures.

12 (6) Assist program participants in obtaining drug
13 treatment services.

14 (c) The department shall establish a procedure to
15 monitor all of the following:

16 (1) Return rates of needles and syringes
17 distributed.

18 (2) Program participation rates.

19 (3) The number of participants who are motivated to
20 enter treatment as a result of the program and the status of
21 their treatment.

22 (d) Any organization conducting a needle and syringe
23 exchange program shall submit to the department a quarterly
24 report evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

25 (e) A person who participates in a program
26 authorized by this act may not be found guilty of possession
27 of drug paraphernalia under Section 13A-12-260 of the Code of

1 Alabama 1975, for receiving or returning needles or syringes
2 under the program.

3 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
4 first day of the third month following its passage and
5 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.