A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the public health system;
amending s. 381.001, F.S.; revising the intent
of the Legislature regarding the mission of the
state's public health system, the Department of
Health's duty to monitor and regulate factors
in the environment which affect the public
health, and the functions of the public health
system with regard to local planning and
development activities; providing additional
legislative intent regarding the improvement of
the land use planning and growth management
process by planning agencies; providing an
effective date.

WHEREAS, the cost of health care in this state has
grown substantially, and hospitals statewide face $2.1 billion
in uncompensated care annually, and an estimated 20 percent of
Florida's population is now uninsured, and

WHEREAS, the state's population is now over 18 million
and continues to grow, and

WHEREAS, motor vehicle traffic has continually risen,
and the number of trips people take on foot has dropped by 42
percent in the last 20 years, and the percentage of all trips
under a 1/2 mile which are made by vehicle instead of walking
in Florida is 54 percent, and the percentage of all traffic
deaths involving pedestrians in Florida is 17 percent, and

WHEREAS, asthma associated with poor air quality from
motor vehicles is the number one reason children visit the
emergency room and miss school, and

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that 60 percent of adults in this state are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight, and that 28 percent of low-income children between 2 and 5 years of age in this state are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Julie Gerberding, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 1 in 3 Americans born in 2000 will develop diabetes sometime during their lifetime and that Type II Diabetes, once called adult-onset diabetes, is becoming increasingly common in children, and the cost for treating diabetes in the United States is estimated at $132 billion annually, and

WHEREAS, Florida has a large elderly population to consider when planning for future transportation, health care, and community needs, and the number of people older than age 65 will double by the year 2020, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Howard Frumkin, the current Director of the National Center for Environmental Health, and Dr. Richard Jackson, the former Director of the National Center for Environmental Health and the former California State Health Officer, believe that the physical environment affects physical and mental health, and that communities must be designed to encourage walking, biking, and social interaction and to prevent traffic injuries, decrease air and water pollution, improve pedestrian facilities, preserve green space, upgrade public transportation, and offer healthful services in near proximity, and

WHEREAS, the break between the planning and development processes and community public health must be bridged, NOW,

THEREFORE,
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 381.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.001 Legislative intent; public health system.--

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Health be responsible for the state's public health system which shall be designed to promote, protect, and improve the health of all people in the state. The mission of the state's public health system is to foster the conditions in which people can be healthy, by assessing state and community health needs and priorities through data collection, epidemiologic studies, health-affect assessments, and community participation; by developing comprehensive public health policies and objectives aimed at improving the health status of people in the state; and by ensuring essential health care and a natural and built environment which enhances the health of the individual and the community. The Legislature recognizes that the state's public health system must be founded on an active partnership between federal, state, and local government and between the public and private sectors, and, therefore, assessment, policy development, and service provision must be shared by all of these entities to achieve its mission.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the department, in carrying out the mission of public health, focus attention on identifying, assessing, and controlling the presence and spread of communicable diseases; on monitoring and regulating factors in the natural and built environment which may impair the public's health, with particular attention to supporting healthy communities; preventing
contamination of drinking water, the air people breathe, and
the food people consume; and ensuring availability of and
access to preventive and primary health care, including, but
not limited to, acute and episodic care, prenatal and
postpartum care, child health, family planning, school health,
chronic disease prevention, child and adult immunization,
dental health, nutrition, and health education and promotion
services.

(3) It is, furthermore, the intent of the Legislature
that the public health system include comprehensive planning,
data collection, technical support, and health resource
development functions. These functions include, but are not
limited to, state laboratory and pharmacy services, the state
vital statistics system, the Florida Center for Health
Information and Policy Analysis, emergency medical services
coordination and support, assessment of local planning and
development activities, and recruitment, retention, and
development of preventive and primary health care
professionals and managers.

(4) It is, furthermore, the intent of the Legislature
that the department provide public health services through the
67 county health departments in partnership with county
governments, as specified in part I of chapter 154, and in so
doing make every attempt possible to solicit the support and
involvement of private and not-for-profit health care agencies
in fulfilling the public health mission.

(5) It is, furthermore, the intent of the Legislature,
recognizing that the roots of planning and zoning are in the
public health field, that the state, regional, and local
planning agencies improve the land use planning and growth
management process through the following means:

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(a) Use and make reference to the Principles of Smart Growth, a developing movement that invests time, attention, and resources in restoring community and vitality to center cities and older suburbs, in land use decisionmaking.

(b) Support public health membership on review boards, planning commissions, regional planning councils, and other planning bodies of deliberation.

(c) Provide incentives for developers and community redevelopment projects at the local level in order to support a healthy development certification or smart growth designation for such qualifying developments or projects.

(d) Support the use of health-affect assessments on developments of a certain size or of a development considered to be regional.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Revises the intent of the Legislature regarding the mission of the state's public health system, the Department of Health's duty to monitor and regulate factors in the environment which affect the public health, and the functions of the public health system with regard to local planning and development activities. Provides additional legislative intent regarding the improvement of the land use planning and growth management process by planning agencies.

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