

Summary of Iowa House Bill, File 591
on Health Care Centers

Iowa House Bill file No. 591 provides for the establishment of three demonstration health care centers as an attempt to increase citizen's access to health care. The centers are to be established by the commissioner of public health within the Department of Health. He or she is to appoint an advisory council composed of seven consumers and six providers of health care to meet at least three times a year.

To be located in an area where a shortage of services exists, the centers are to deliver whatever care a "public health nurse practitioner" is qualified to perform. Listed services include: assessing health needs, providing health care education, performing first aid, giving preventive and other health services.

Each center is to have a public health nursing coordinator, who is primarily an administrator, and a public health nurse practitioner, who is to be a registered nurse with education in a clinical area to enable that person to make judgements concerning levels of illness. The centers are to bill services on a sliding scale proportionate to the wealth of the client. All records are to be confidential. Liability insurance is to be purchased to cover employees and functions.

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