

FACT SHEET

Maternal and Child Health Leadership and Excellence Act of 2012

The bill has two major functions:

- **Moves Maternal and Child Health Programs from IDHS to IDPH** and combines them with other MCH, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion programs.
- Puts these programs under **professionally-qualified and experienced leadership**.

The bill:

- Is **cost neutral** and will save health care costs in the long-run
- **Puts community health and prevention programs where they belong** – in the Illinois Department of Public Health
- **Does not change program services, benefits or eligibility**
- **Maintains the continuum of prevention programs** for women, infants, pre-school and school-aged children, adolescents and families.
- The bill will **improve performance** in the improvement of health status.
- Increases state and local focus on **reducing health disparities** by putting these resources under the leadership of the state's prevention agency.
- Focuses prevention programs on **public health, not poverty reduction**.
- **Strengthens IDPH** by restoring community health programs to the state health department. (State and local public health agencies must address community health, environmental health and infectious disease to fulfill the broad mission of ensuring the conditions under which people can be healthy.¹)
- **Eliminates** the **fragmentation** created when only part of the state health department was moved to IDHS in 1997.
- Aligns state-level program structure with **accepted national practice**.
- The bill improves the state's position for **national accreditation** of its public health system.
- The bill will give program managers **better access to** a wide range of **health data**.
- The bill will position the state to better **prepare for Health Care Reform** by placing the full range of public health services in the public health agency.
- **Strengthens local public health** departments by reducing administrative burden and providing stronger support and leadership from the state level.

Contact the IPHA office at (217) 522-5687 or visit www.ipha.com for a copy of the issue paper on Improving Maternal and Child Health practice in Illinois.

¹ National Research Council. 1988. *The Future of Public Health*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. Pg. 40.