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CONTACT

Ryan Banfill
District Aide
Office of Rep. Gallop Franklin
Ryan.Banfill@MyFloridaHouse.gov
850-717-5008

Governor DeSantis Signs HIV-PEP Bill Sponsored by Rep. Gallop Franklin

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Florida’s neighborhood pharmacists will join the battle against HIV/AIDS after Gov. Ron DeSantis today signed [CS/CS/HB 159](#) sponsored in the Florida House by [Representative Gallop Franklin \(D-Tallahassee\)](#).

The John W. Rhey Act, named in honor of [Representative Dana Trabulsy’s \(R-Fort Pierce\)](#) brother who died from AIDS, establishes a partnership of pharmacists and physicians working collaboratively to save lives by providing people exposed to HIV with emergency access to life-saving postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) therapy from a neighborhood pharmacist.

“Florida has among the highest HIV infection rates in the country. With Governor Ron DeSantis’ signature today, Florida is taking a giant leap forward to put a check on the advance of HIV/AIDS in the Sunshine State,” said **Representative Franklin**. “With this new law on the books, we will enlist licensed pharmacists in the healthcare army, working collaboratively with physicians in a strong partnership to save lives by reducing the number of adults with HIV.”

The legislation, sponsored in the Florida Senate by **Senator Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami)**, passed the Florida House and Senate unanimously. The new law will allow a certified pharmacist to:

- Screen for HIV exposure;
- Order and dispense PEP medication to people exposed to HIV; and
- Advise people receiving PEP treatment to consult with their primary care physician.

The new law takes effect July 1, 2024.

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