

**As Introduced**

**125th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2003-2004**

**H. B. No. 6**

**Representative J. Stewart**

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**A B I L L**

To direct the General Assembly in its deliberations 1  
regarding bioterrorism. 2

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** In recognition of the potential use of biological 3  
agents to cause the spread of disease among the citizens of this 4  
state, the General Assembly shall conduct deliberations on 5  
measures to protect the health and safety of the public during 6  
events of bioterrorism and to enhance the ability of state and 7  
local government entities to provide timely and appropriate 8  
responses. In conducting its deliberations, the General Assembly 9  
may consider any of the following: 10

(A) The extent to which existing statutes enable state and 11  
local public health agencies and officials to prepare for and 12  
respond swiftly to bioterrorism; 13

(B) The division, consolidation, and coordination of 14  
jurisdictions among the state and local government entities that 15  
may be involved in responding to bioterrorism, including such 16  
entities as public health agencies, law enforcement agencies, 17  
emergency management agencies, and agencies with jurisdiction over 18  
agriculture and the environment; 19

(C) The authority of state and local government entities to 20

cooperate and share information in their response to bioterrorism;	21
(D) The modification and creation of disease reporting	22
systems that aid in the rapid identification of bioterrorism;	23
(E) The standards and procedures to be followed in	24
maintaining the confidentiality of personally identifiable health	25
information that may be obtained by government entities involved	26
in responding to bioterrorism;	27
(F) The modification and creation of programs to assess the	28
preparedness of health care facilities and practitioners to	29
respond to bioterrorism;	30
(G) The modification and creation of programs for the	31
maintenance and distribution of vaccines, immunizing agents, or	32
other health care supplies;	33
(H) The relationship between the rights of individuals and	34
the emergency health powers that state and local government	35
entities may possess or be granted;	36
(I) Other matters the General Assembly considers relevant to	37
the prevention, detection, and management of public health	38
emergencies resulting from bioterrorism.	39