FDA Begins Process of Ending Gay Blood Donor Ban

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The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has started the process to review and possibly end the ban on blood donations from gay men, the *Washington Blade* reports.

The Department of Health and Human Services has scheduled meetings June 10 and 11 with the Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability to consider “the most important factors (e.g. societal, scientific and economic) to consider in making a policy change,” states a notice published by the Federal Register.

According to the Blade article, the committee will also discuss current scientific information and what studies and safety measures are needed before making any changes.

During recent months, several lawmakers and activists have urged the FDA to overturn the ban.

Instituted in 1983, the ban prohibits any man who has had sex with another man since 1977 from giving blood.

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