§ 2712. Functions, powers and duties. 1. In order to further the declared purposes of this article, the institute shall have the following functions, powers and duties:

(a) To conduct a survey of all of the existing facilities within the state having to do with the diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of patients with kidney disease and to prepare and submit its findings and a specific program of action.

(b) To evaluate the need for the creation of local or regional facilities and for the establishing of a major kidney research center.

(c) To develop and administer scientific investigations into the cause, prevention, methods of treatment and cure of renal disease, including research into transplantation of kidneys.

(d) To develop techniques for an effective method of mass testing for the detection of kidney diseases and urinary tract infections.

(e) To develop more efficient methods of medical care for kidney disease and to develop more effective and economical kidney dialysis equipment.

(f) To survey and evaluate the need for a program of professional education and training for medical students, physicians and nurses in the care and treatment of kidney diseases.

(h) To enter into such contracts and agreements with individuals, colleges, universities, associations, corporations, municipalities and other units of government as may be deemed necessary and advisable to carry out the general intent and purposes of this article. Such contracts may provide for payment by the state, within the limit of funds available, for materials, equipment or services.

2. The commissioner may adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes and provisions of this article.