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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 609 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, ARGALL, SMITH,  
RAFFERTY, SCARNATI, COSTA, VULAKOVICH, YUDICHAK, McILHINNEY,  
VANCE, BLAKE, HAYWOOD, DINNIMAN, HUGHES, WILLIAMS AND BROWNE,  
MARCH 6, 2015

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AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
NOVEMBER 9, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Establishing a task force on prostate cancer and related chronic  
2 prostate conditions; and providing for powers and duties of  
3 the task force, the Department of Health, the Insurance  
4 Department, the Department of Aging and the Department of  
5 Human Services, and for prevention and education strategies.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Prostate  
10 Cancer Surveillance, Education, Detection and Treatment Act.

11 Section 2. Findings.

12 The General Assembly finds that:

13 (1) Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer  
14 diagnosed in men in this Commonwealth.

15 (2) African-American men are 61% more likely than  
16 Caucasian men to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and twice  
17 as likely to die from it.

1 (3) One in six men will be diagnosed with prostate  
2 cancer in their lifetime.

3 (4) In 2011, approximately 10,240 men were diagnosed  
4 with prostate cancer in Pennsylvania. In that same year,  
5 nearly 1,300 men died from prostate cancer.

6 (5) As of 2014, Pennsylvania does not provide or  
7 disseminate prostate cancer information as part of a public  
8 health campaign or message.

9 (6) Currently, a lack of consensus regarding prostate  
10 cancer screening guidelines creates an environment of  
11 confusion leading to inconsistent screening rates across the  
12 Commonwealth.

13 (7) When diagnosed at an early stage, prostate cancer  
14 survival rates are very high.

15 Section 3. Legislative intent.

16 It is the intent of the General Assembly:

17 (1) To provide the public with information and education  
18 to create greater public awareness of the prevalence of and  
19 measures available to detect, diagnose and treat prostate  
20 cancer and related chronic prostate conditions.

21 (2) To ensure that:

22 (i) Medical professionals, insurers, patients and  
23 governmental agencies are educated about risk factors and  
24 screening guidelines.

25 (ii) Medical professionals provide patients with  
26 sufficient information about treatment options to enable  
27 patients to make an informed choice as part of informed  
28 consent and to respect the autonomy of that choice.

29 (iii) Pennsylvania government agencies provide  
30 unbiased information regarding screening, diagnosis and

1 treatment options.

2 (iv) Uniform screening guidelines are established  
3 for prostate cancer in Pennsylvania.

4 Section 4. Definitions.

5 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
6 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
7 context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

9 "Health care professional." A licensed physician, physician  
10 assistant, certified registered nurse practitioner or other  
11 licensed health care professional.

12 "Prostate cancer." Cancer that forms in the tissue of the  
13 prostate.

14 "Related chronic prostate condition." Conditions that  
15 include ~~prostatitis~~ PROSTATITIS, which is inflammation of the <--  
16 prostate, and an enlarged prostate. The term does not include  
17 prostate cancer.

18 "Secretary." The Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth.

19 "Task force." The task force established by this act.

20 Section 5. Task force.

21 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish a task  
22 force on prostate cancer and related chronic prostate  
23 conditions.

24 (b) Purpose.--The task force shall investigate and make  
25 recommendations to the department regarding:

26 (1) The prevalence of and measures available to detect,  
27 diagnose and treat prostate cancer and related chronic  
28 prostate conditions in this Commonwealth.

29 (2) Raising awareness about the long-term effects caused  
30 by a lack of public policy and education about prostate

1 cancer risk factors and screening guidelines.

2 (3) Development of a program of information and  
3 education regarding prostate cancer which shall include a  
4 uniform set of screening guidelines and the broad spectrum of  
5 scientific and treatment options regarding all stages of  
6 prostate cancer and related chronic prostate conditions.

7 (4) Development of a program to ~~ensure access to~~ <--  
8 ~~prostate cancer screening for all male residents of this~~

9 ~~Commonwealth~~ ASSIST MALE RESIDENTS IN ACCESSING PROSTATE <--  
10 CANCER SCREENING, regardless of insurance coverage.

11 (5) Cooperation with the Insurance Department,  
12 Department of Aging, and the Department of Human Services to  
13 disseminate the information required under paragraph (3) to  
14 the general public.

15 (c) Composition.--The task force shall be composed of the  
16 following individuals:

17 (1) The secretary or a designee.

18 (2) The Secretary of the Commonwealth or a designee.

19 (3) The Insurance Commissioner or a designee.

20 (4) The Secretary of Aging or a designee.

21 (5) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee.

22 (6) Two physicians licensed in this Commonwealth who are  
23 knowledgeable concerning treatment of prostate cancer and  
24 related chronic prostate conditions and who are board  
25 certified in urology.

26 (7) Two physicians licensed in this Commonwealth who are  
27 knowledgeable concerning treatment of prostate cancer and  
28 related chronic prostate conditions and who are practicing  
29 radiation oncologists treating prostate cancer.

30 (8) An epidemiologist licensed in this Commonwealth who

1 has expertise in prostate cancer.

2 (9) Two individuals who represent prostate cancer  
3 patient groups, either of whom may be a prostate cancer  
4 patient or a family member of a prostate cancer patient.

5 (10) One individual who is a prostate cancer patient or  
6 family member of a prostate cancer patient.

7 (11) Two registered nurses licensed in this  
8 Commonwealth, one of whom is a certified registered nurse  
9 practitioner and both of whom are knowledgeable concerning  
10 prostate cancer and related chronic prostate conditions.

11 (d) Meetings.--

12 (1) Within 45 days of the effective date of this  
13 section, the secretary shall appoint the members and a  
14 chairperson of the task force.

15 (2) The task force shall convene within 90 days of the  
16 effective date of this section and shall meet at least  
17 quarterly. When necessary, some task force members may  
18 participate in meetings via teleconference.

19 (3) The task force shall issue a report with  
20 recommendations to the secretary within one year of its first  
21 meeting. The report shall be transmitted to the Public Health  
22 and Welfare Committee of the Senate and the Health Committee  
23 of the House of Representatives.

24 (4) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit  
25 the task force from making interim reports or taking interim  
26 actions.

27 (e) Compensation and expenses.--The members of the task  
28 force shall receive no compensation for their services, but  
29 shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in  
30 performance of their duties. Reimbursement shall be provided by

1 the department.

2 (f) Duties of department.--The department shall:

3 (1) Develop a program of information and education  
4 regarding prostate cancer which shall include a uniform set  
5 of screening guidelines and the broad spectrum of scientific  
6 and treatment options regarding all stages of prostate cancer  
7 and related chronic prostate conditions.

8 (2) Develop a program to assist male residents in  
9 accessing prostate cancer screening, regardless of insurance  
10 coverage.

11 (3) Cooperate with the Insurance Department, Department  
12 of Aging and the Department of Human Services to disseminate  
13 the information required under paragraph (1) to medical  
14 professionals and the general public.

15 (4) Cooperate with professional associations of health  
16 care professionals to provide the education program for  
17 professionals required under paragraph (1).

18 (5) Identify and apply for public and private grants and  
19 funding in order to carry out the provisions of this act.

20 Section 6. Expiration.

21 This act shall expire June 30, 2019.

22 Section 7. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect immediately.