

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1479 Session of  
2014

INTRODUCED BY BRUBAKER, DINNIMAN, PILEGGI, SCARNATI, STACK,  
TEPLITZ, VULAKOVICH, WHITE, ERICKSON, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA,  
RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK, GREENLEAF, SCHWANK, SMITH, COSTA, WAGNER,  
VOGEL, HUTCHINSON, FOLMER, BLAKE, VANCE, SOLOBAY, McILHINNEY,  
KITCHEN AND FERLO, OCTOBER 2, 2014

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, OCTOBER 2, 2014

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, the Department of  
5 Welfare, 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) In Pennsylvania, prostate cancer is the most common  
14 type of cancer diagnosed in men.

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.

18 (3) One in six men will be diagnosed with prostate

1 cancer in his lifetime.

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

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

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

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

14 Section 3. Legislative intent.

15 It is the intent of the General Assembly:

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

20 (2) To ensure that:

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

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

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

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

3 Section 4. Definitions.

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

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

8       "Health care professional." A licensed physician, a  
9       physician's assistant, a certified registered nurse practitioner  
10      or other licensed health care professional.

11      "Prostate cancer." Cancer that forms in tissues of the  
12      prostate, a gland in the male reproductive system found below  
13      the bladder and in front of the rectum.

14      "Related chronic prostate condition." Prostatitis, which is  
15      inflammation of the prostate, sometimes caused by infection. In  
16      some cases, it is treated with antibiotics. An enlarged prostate  
17      is also called benign prostatic hypertrophy or BPH. Prostate  
18      growth affects virtually all men 50 years of age or older.  
19      Symptoms of difficult urination tend to increase with age.  
20      Medicines or surgery can treat BPH. The term does not include  
21      prostate cancer.

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

23      "State officials." The term includes the Secretary of  
24      Environmental Protection of the Commonwealth.

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

26 Section 5. Task force.

27      (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish a task  
28      force on prostate cancer and related chronic prostate  
29      conditions.

30      (b) Purpose.--The task force shall investigate and make

1 recommendations to the department regarding:

2 (1) The prevalence of and measures available to detect,  
3 diagnose and treat prostate cancer and related chronic  
4 prostate conditions in this Commonwealth.

5 (2) Raising awareness about the long-term effects caused  
6 by a lack of public policy and education about prostate  
7 cancer risk factors and screening guidelines.

8 (3) Development of a program of general public and  
9 health care professional information and education regarding  
10 prostate cancer which shall include a uniform set of  
11 screening guidelines and the broad spectrum of scientific and  
12 treatment options regarding all stages of prostate cancer and  
13 related chronic prostate conditions.

14 (4) Development of a program to ensure access to  
15 prostate cancer screening for all men in this Commonwealth,  
16 regardless of insurance coverage.

17 (5) Cooperation with the Insurance Department, the  
18 Department of Aging and the Department of Public Welfare to  
19 disseminate the information required under paragraph (3) to  
20 the general public.

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

23 (1) The secretary or a designee.

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

25 (3) The Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth or a  
26 designee.

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

28 (5) The Secretary of Public Welfare or a designee.

29 (6) Two members of the Public Health and Welfare  
30 Committee of the Senate or designees.

1           (7) Two members of the Health Committee of the House of  
2 Representatives or designees.

3           (8) Two physicians licensed in this Commonwealth who are  
4 knowledgeable concerning treatment of prostate cancer and  
5 related chronic prostate conditions and who are board  
6 certified in urology.

7           (9) Two physicians licensed in this Commonwealth who are  
8 knowledgeable concerning treatment of prostate cancer and  
9 related chronic prostate conditions and who are practicing  
10 radiation oncologists treating prostate cancer.

11          (10) An epidemiologist licensed in this Commonwealth who  
12 has expertise in the treatment of prostate cancer.

13          (11) Two individuals who represent prostate cancer  
14 patient groups who may be prostate cancer patients or family  
15 members of a prostate cancer patient.

16          (12) One individual who is a prostate cancer patient or  
17 family member of a prostate cancer patient.

18          (13) Two registered nurses licensed in this  
19 Commonwealth, one of whom is a certified registered nurse  
20 practitioner and both of whom are knowledgeable concerning  
21 prostate cancer and related chronic prostate conditions.

22       (d) Meetings.--

23           (1) Within 45 days of the effective date of this  
24 section, the secretary shall appoint the members of the task  
25 force. The secretary shall appoint a chairman of the task  
26 force.

27           (2) The task force shall convene within 90 days of the  
28 effective date of this section and shall meet at least  
29 quarterly. When necessary, the task force may participate in  
30 meetings via teleconference.

1           (3) The task force shall issue a report with  
2       recommendations to the secretary within one year of its first  
3       meeting. The report shall also be transmitted to the Public  
4       Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate and the Health  
5       Committee of the House of Representatives.

6           (4) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit  
7       the task force from making interim reports or taking interim  
8       actions.

9       (e) Compensation and expenses.--The members of the task  
10      force shall receive no compensation for their services but shall  
11      be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in  
12      performance of their duties. Reimbursement shall be provided by  
13      the department.

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

15           (1) Develop a program of general public and health care  
16      professional information and education regarding prostate  
17      cancer which shall include a uniform set of screening  
18      guidelines and the broad spectrum of scientific and treatment  
19      options regarding all stages of prostate cancer and related  
20      chronic prostate conditions.

21           (2) Develop a program to ensure access to prostate  
22      cancer screening for all men in this Commonwealth, regardless  
23      of insurance coverage.

24           (3) Cooperate with the Insurance Department, the  
25      Department of Aging and the Department of Public Welfare to  
26      disseminate the information required under paragraph (1) to  
27      medical professionals and the general public.

28           (4) Cooperate with professional associations of health  
29      care professionals to provide the education program for  
30      professionals required under paragraph (1).

1           (5) Identify and apply for public and private grants and  
2       funding in order to carry out the provisions of this act.  
3 Section 6. Effective date.  
4       This act shall take effect immediately.