
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 605 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, SMITH,
ALLOWAY, TARTAGLIONE, RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK, FARNESE AND COSTA,
MARCH 12, 2015

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, MARCH 12, 2015

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 and the Department of Health and for prostate
4 cancer prevention and education strategies.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

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

10 Section 2. Findings.

11 The General Assembly finds that:

12 (1) In this Commonwealth, prostate cancer is the most
13 common type of cancer diagnosed in men.

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

17 (3) One in six men will be diagnosed with prostate
18 cancer in his lifetime.

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

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

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

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

13 Section 3. Legislative intent.

14 It is the intent of the General Assembly:

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

19 (2) To ensure that:

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

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

27 (iii) Commonwealth agencies provide unbiased
28 information regarding screening, diagnosis and treatment
29 options.

30 (iv) Uniform screening guidelines are established

1 for prostate cancer in this Commonwealth.

2 Section 4. Definitions.

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

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

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

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

13 "Related chronic prostate condition." Prostatitis or benign
14 prostatic hypertrophy. The term does not include prostate
15 cancer.

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

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

18 Section 5. Task force.

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

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

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

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

30 (3) Development of a program of general public and

1 health care professional information and education regarding
2 prostate cancer, which shall include a uniform set of
3 screening guidelines and the broad spectrum of treatment
4 options regarding all stages of prostate cancer and related
5 chronic prostate conditions.

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

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

13 (c) Members.--The task force shall be composed of the
14 following members:

15 (1) The secretary or a designee.

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

17 (3) The Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth or a
18 designee.

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

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

21 (6) One legislator from each of the four legislative
22 caucuses, to be appointed by the President pro tempore of the
23 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in
24 consultation with the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader
25 of the House of Representatives.

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 board
29 certified in urology.

30 (8) Two physicians licensed in this Commonwealth who are

1 knowledgeable concerning treatment of prostate cancer and
2 related chronic prostate conditions and who are practicing
3 radiation oncologists treating prostate cancer.

4 (9) An epidemiologist licensed in this Commonwealth who
5 has expertise in the treatment of prostate cancer.

6 (10) Two individuals who represent prostate cancer
7 patient groups who may be prostate cancer patients or family
8 members of a prostate cancer patient.

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

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

15 (d) Meetings.--

16 (1) Within 45 days of the effective date of this
17 section, the secretary shall appoint the members of the task
18 force. The secretary shall appoint a chairman of the task
19 force.

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

24 (3) The task force shall issue a report with
25 recommendations to the secretary within one year of its first
26 meeting. The report shall also be transmitted to the Public
27 Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate and the Health
28 Committee of the House of Representatives.

29 (4) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit
30 the task force from making interim reports or taking interim

1 actions.

2 (e) Compensation and expenses.--The members of the task
3 force shall receive no compensation for their services but shall
4 be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in
5 performance of their duties. Reimbursement shall be provided by
6 the department.

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

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

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

17 (3) Cooperate with the Insurance Department, the
18 Department of Aging and the Department of Human Services to
19 disseminate the information required under paragraph (1) to
20 medical professionals and the general public.

21 (4) Cooperate with professional associations of health
22 care professionals to provide the education program for
23 professionals required under paragraph (1).

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

26 Section 6. Effective date.

27 This act shall take effect immediately.