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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 REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 19, 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 prostaticitis, which is inflammation of the prostate, and  
16 an enlarged prostate. The term does not include prostate cancer.

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

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

19 Section 5. Task force.

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

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

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

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

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

6 (4) Development of a program to ~~ensure access to~~ <--  
7 ~~prostate cancer screening for all male residents of this~~  
8 ~~Commonwealth~~ ASSIST MALE RESIDENTS IN ACCESSING PROSTATE <--  
9 CANCER SCREENING, regardless of insurance coverage.

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

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

16 (1) The secretary or a designee.

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

18 (3) The Insurance Commissioner or a designee.

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

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

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

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

29 (8) An epidemiologist licensed in this Commonwealth who  
30 has expertise in prostate cancer.

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

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

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

10         (d) Meetings.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 Section 6. Expiration.

20 This act shall expire June 30, 2019.

21 Section 7. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect immediately.