
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 804 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GAINNEY, KAUFFMAN, BISHOP, READSHAW, FREEMAN,
YOUNGBLOOD, BROWNLEE, SCHWEYER, KINSEY, HARHART, WHEATLEY,
ROZZI, DONATUCCI, HARKINS, J. HARRIS, BOBACK, McNEILL,
D. COSTA, MILLARD, WATERS, DeLUCA, MAHONEY, MURT, WATSON AND
GIBBONS, MARCH 17, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 17, 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, the Department of Health, the Insurance
4 Department, the Department of Aging and the Department of
5 Human Services, for prevention and for 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 2015, 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 Human Services 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 Human Services 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 Human Services 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.