

By Representative Littlefield

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to prostate cancer;
3 establishing a Prostate Cancer Awareness
4 Program within the Department of Health;
5 specifying purpose, activities, administration,
6 and funding sources for the program; creating a
7 prostate cancer advisory committee; providing
8 for appointment of members; providing for
9 reimbursement of expenses; providing an
10 effective date.
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12 WHEREAS, prostate cancer is the most common type of
13 cancer and the second leading cause of death from cancer among
14 men in the United States and in Florida, and
15 WHEREAS, an estimated 198,100 men in the United States
16 will have been diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2001, 15,000
17 of them residents of Florida, and
18 WHEREAS, an estimated 31,500 men in the United States
19 will have died from prostate cancer in 2001, 2,400 of them
20 residents of Florida, and
21 WHEREAS, Florida has both the second highest number of
22 new cases of prostate cancer and the second highest number of
23 deaths from prostate cancer in the United States, and
24 WHEREAS, the risk of being diagnosed with prostate
25 cancer is higher among elderly men, and Florida has a high
26 percentage of elderly men compared to other states, and
27 WHEREAS, African-American men have a 50-percent higher
28 risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer and are more than
29 twice as likely to die from the disease than Caucasian men,
30 but are less likely to be screened for the disease, and
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1 WHEREAS, 74 percent of all prostate cancer among
2 African-American men is detected at local and regional sites;
3 however, the 5-year survival rate drops to 30 percent when
4 prostate cancer has spread to distant sites, and

5 WHEREAS, the risk of being diagnosed with prostate
6 cancer is 50 percent higher among men with a family history of
7 prostate cancer, and

8 WHEREAS, the 5-year survival rate for men who have
9 prostate cancer diagnosed at an early stage is 95 percent
10 compared to 34 percent when diagnosis occurs at a late stage,
11 and 68 percent of non-Caucasian men with prostate cancer in
12 Florida are diagnosed at an early stage compared to 75 percent
13 of Caucasian men, NOW, THEREFORE,

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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Prostate Cancer Awareness Program.--

18 (1) This section may be cited as the "Prostate Cancer
19 Awareness Act of 2002."

20 (2) To the extent that funds are specifically made
21 available for this purpose, the Prostate Cancer Awareness
22 Program is established within the Department of Health. The
23 purpose of this program is to implement the January 2000
24 recommendations of the Florida Prostate Cancer Task Force to
25 provide statewide outreach and health education activities to
26 ensure that men are aware of and appropriately seek medical
27 counseling for prostate cancer as an early detection health
28 care measure.

29 (3) The program shall utilize known effective
30 strategies that may include, but are not limited to, radio and
31 television advertisements, newspaper articles and feature

1 stories, community education outreach programs, peer education
2 strategies, brochures, posters, videos, and computer-based
3 resources.

4 (4) For purposes of implementing the program, the
5 Department of Health may:

6 (a) Conduct activities directly or enter into a
7 contract with a qualified nonprofit community education
8 entity.

9 (b) Seek any available gifts, grants, or funds from
10 the state, the Federal Government, philanthropic foundations,
11 and industry or business groups.

12 (5) A prostate cancer advisory committee is created to
13 advise and assist the Department of Health in implementing the
14 program.

15 (a) The Secretary of Health shall appoint the advisory
16 committee members, who shall consist of:

17 1. Three persons from prostate cancer survivor groups
18 or cancer-related advocacy groups.

19 2. Three persons who are scientists or clinicians from
20 public universities or research organizations.

21 3. Three persons who are practicing cancer medical
22 specialists from health organizations with a commitment to
23 cancer research and control.

24 (b) Members shall serve without compensation, but may,
25 pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes, receive
26 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses incurred in the
27 performance of their official duties.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.
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HOUSE SUMMARY

Establishes a Prostate Cancer Awareness Program within the Department of Health. Specifies program purpose and activities. Authorizes the department to enter into a contract and seek funding resources for program implementation. Creates an advisory committee, to be appointed by the department secretary, to advise and assist in implementing the program. Provides for reimbursement of committee members' per diem and travel expenses.