

HB 0859

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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to prostate cancer; providing a popular name; establishing a prostate cancer awareness program within the Department of Health; specifying purpose, activities, administration, and funding sources for the program; creating a prostate cancer advisory committee; providing for appointment of members; providing for reimbursement of expenses; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer and the second leading cause of death from cancer among men in the United States and in Florida, and

WHEREAS, an estimated 230,110 men in the United States are expected to be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2004, 17,000 of them residents of Florida, and

WHEREAS, an estimated 29,900 men in the United States are expected to die from prostate cancer in 2004, 2,200 of them residents of Florida, and

WHEREAS, Florida has both the second highest number of new cases of prostate cancer and the second highest number of deaths from prostate cancer in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer is higher among elderly men, and Florida has a high percentage of elderly men compared to other states, and

WHEREAS, African-American men have a 50-percent higher risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer and are more than twice as likely to die from the disease than Caucasian men, but are less likely to be screened for the disease, and

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29 WHEREAS, 74 percent of all prostate cancer among African-
 30 American men is detected at local and regional sites; however,
 31 the 5-year survival rate drops to 30 percent when prostate
 32 cancer has spread to distant sites, and

33 WHEREAS, the risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer
 34 is 50 percent higher among men with a family history of prostate
 35 cancer, and

36 WHEREAS, the 5-year survival rate for men who have prostate
 37 cancer diagnosed at an early stage is 95 percent compared to 34
 38 percent when diagnosis occurs at a late stage, and 68 percent of
 39 non-Caucasian men with prostate cancer in Florida are diagnosed
 40 at an early stage compared to 75 percent of Caucasian men, NOW,
 41 THEREFORE,

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

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 45 Section 1. Prostate Cancer Awareness Program.--

46 (1) This act may be referred to by the popular name
 47 "Prostate Cancer Awareness Act of 2004."

48 (2) To the extent that funds are specifically made
 49 available for this purpose, the Prostate Cancer Awareness
 50 Program is established within the Department of Health. The
 51 purpose of this program is to implement the January 2000
 52 recommendations of the Florida Prostate Cancer Task Force to
 53 provide statewide outreach and health education activities to
 54 ensure that men are aware of and appropriately seek medical
 55 counseling for prostate cancer as an early-detection health care
 56 measure.

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57 (3) For purposes of implementing the program, the
 58 Department of Health may:

59 (a) Conduct activities directly or enter into a contract
 60 with a qualified nonprofit community education entity.

61 (b) Seek any available gifts, grants, or funds from the
 62 state, the Federal Government, philanthropic foundations, and
 63 industry or business groups.

64 (4) A prostate cancer advisory committee is created to
 65 advise and assist the Department of Health in implementing the
 66 program.

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

69 1. Three persons from prostate cancer survivor groups or
 70 cancer-related advocacy groups.

71 2. Three persons who are scientists or clinicians from
 72 public universities or research organizations.

73 3. Three persons who are practicing cancer medical
 74 specialists from health organizations with a commitment to
 75 cancer research and control.

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

80 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.