
HOUSE BILL 2357

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Dickerson, Stensen, Huff, Gombosky, Clements, Kenney, Conway, Hurst, Van Luven and Edmonds

Read first time 01/11/2000. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a cancer task force; creating new
2 sections; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Over 200,000 men in the United States were diagnosed with
6 prostate cancer during the last year, and approximately forty-two
7 thousand American men died due to this disease;

8 (2) With an estimated nine million American men currently afflicted
9 with this disease, prostate cancer can be considered a serious epidemic
10 in the United States deserving immediate public health attention; and

11 (3) Significantly more research is needed to determine the causes
12 and most effective treatments for prostate cancer.

13 The legislature further finds that greater public awareness about
14 cancer prevention, strengthening cancer support networks, and fostering
15 the development community cancer prevention resources are an important
16 part of the legislature's goal of cancer prevention and the overall
17 improvement of our state's public health.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is established the prostate cancer
2 task force to consist of seventeen members selected as follows:

3 (a) Two members of the house of representatives, one selected from
4 each of the caucuses;

5 (b) Two members of the senate, one selected from each of the
6 caucuses;

7 (c) Two members representing local public health officers;

8 (d) One member who is a physician and is a board certified
9 oncologist;

10 (e) One member who is a physician and is a board certified
11 urologist;

12 (f) Four members who are prostate cancer patients or survivors;

13 (g) One member who is a prostate cancer researcher; and

14 (h) Four cancer advocates, no less than one of whom must represent
15 the group most at risk of prostate cancer.

16 (2) The secretary of the department of health shall appoint all
17 nonlegislative members of the task force within thirty days from the
18 effective date of this act. The secretary shall consider obtaining a
19 geographical distribution and balance throughout the state.

20 (3) Staffing shall be provided by the department of health.

21 (4) Members of the task force shall serve without remuneration.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The task force shall:

23 (1) Conduct a survey and produce a resource guide of public and
24 private community resources that assist persons with prostate cancer
25 and their families;

26 (2) Identify resources in Washington state that are devoted to
27 conducting prostate cancer research, detection, and treatment;

28 (3) Conduct a national survey of programs, education and training
29 resources, and research and assistance that could serve as a model for
30 Washington state;

31 (4) Develop a state-wide strategy for targeting information,
32 assistance, and direct care to groups that are most at risk of prostate
33 cancer, and determine the roles that local and state government,
34 institutions of higher education, and the private sector should play to
35 decrease the incidence of prostate cancer, increase the quality of life
36 for patients and survivors of prostate cancer, and foster the search
37 for a cure;

1 (5) Identify areas of the state that are most in need of cancer
2 information and assistance;

3 (6) Determine gaps in research, detection, and treatment of
4 prostate cancer in Washington state;

5 (7) Identify the salient nonmedical supportive needs of prostate
6 cancer patients and survivors and their families; and

7 (8) Provide a written report to the governor, the house of
8 representatives health care committee, and the senate committee on
9 health and long-term care by December 12, 2000, presenting the findings
10 and recommendations of the task force.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires July 1, 2001.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its
13 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
14 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
15 persons or circumstances is not affected.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
19 immediately.

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