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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Prostate Cancer Awareness Program;
3 amending s. 381.911, F.S.; revising the structure and
4 objectives of the Prostate Cancer Awareness Program within
5 the Department of Health; revising the purpose of the
6 program; revising requirements for program implementation;
7 requiring the department and the University of Florida
8 Prostate Disease Center to establish the University of
9 Florida Prostate Disease Center Prostate Cancer Task Force
10 to replace the Prostate Cancer Advisory Committee;
11 providing for the appointment of task force members by the
12 State Surgeon General upon specified recommendations;
13 providing for terms of members; providing for meetings and
14 duties; requiring an annual report to the Governor, the
15 Legislature, and the State Surgeon General; removing a
16 provision requiring the program to coordinate efforts with
17 the Florida Public Health Institute, Inc.; providing an
18 effective date.

19
20 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that prostate cancer is
21 a major public health problem and that promoting awareness of
22 this disease is in the public interest of this state, and

23 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health's Florida
24 Cancer Plan 2003-2006, prostate cancer was the most commonly
25 diagnosed cancer in Florida, accounting for one in every four
26 cancer diagnoses, and

27 WHEREAS, the costs for screening, staging, and treating
28 prostate cancer patients in both dollars and morbidity continue

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29 | to rise, which threatens the foundation of this state's health
 30 | system, and

31 | WHEREAS, because African-American men are 2.8 times more
 32 | likely to succumb to prostate cancer than their white
 33 | counterparts, a call for action is mandatory, and

34 | WHEREAS, there are currently no organized, active, or
 35 | effective mechanisms in Florida to mitigate the incidence, lack
 36 | of community education and awareness, racial and ethnic
 37 | disparities, and rising burdens of prostate cancer, and

38 | WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that it is a public
 39 | necessity to work with the University of Florida Prostate
 40 | Disease Center to establish the University of Florida Prostate
 41 | Disease Center Prostate Cancer Task Force and to make changes to
 42 | the Prostate Cancer Awareness Program in order to more
 43 | effectively serve the needs of the people of Florida, NOW,
 44 | THEREFORE,

45 |
 46 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

47 |
 48 | Section 1. Section 381.911, Florida Statutes, is amended
 49 | to read:

50 | 381.911 Prostate Cancer Awareness Program.—

51 | (1) To the extent that funds are specifically made
 52 | available for this purpose, the Prostate Cancer Awareness
 53 | Program is established within the Department of Health. The
 54 | purpose of this program is to:

55 | (a) Meet and exceed ~~implement~~ the recommendations offered
 56 | in ~~of~~ January 2000 by ~~of~~ the Florida Prostate Cancer Task Force.

57 (b) ~~to~~ Provide ~~for~~ statewide outreach to promote prostate
 58 cancer awareness.

59 (c) Communicate the advantages of early detection.

60 (d) Report recent progress in prostate cancer research and
 61 the availability of clinical trials.

62 (e) Minimize health disparities through outreach,
 63 education, and screening events.

64 (f) Communicate best practice principles to physicians
 65 involved in the care of prostate cancer patients.

66 (g) Establish a communication platform for patients and
 67 their advocates and health education activities to ensure that
 68 men are aware of and appropriately seek medical counseling for
 69 prostate cancer as an early-detection health care measure.

70 (2) For purposes of implementing the program, the
 71 Department of Health and the University of Florida Prostate
 72 Disease Center may work with other organizations and
 73 institutions to create a systemic focus on increasing community
 74 education and awareness about prostate cancer by Florida Public
 75 Health Institute, Inc., may:

76 (a) Conducting ~~Conduct~~ activities directly or entering
 77 ~~enter~~ into contracts ~~a contract~~ with a qualified nonprofit
 78 community education entities ~~entity~~.

79 (b) Seeking ~~Seek~~ any available gifts, grants, or funds
 80 from the state, the Federal Government, philanthropic
 81 foundations, and industry or business groups.

82 (3) The University of Florida Prostate Disease Center
 83 shall collaborate with the Department of Health to establish the
 84 University of Florida Prostate Disease Center Prostate Cancer

85 Task Force and lead the task force in developing and
 86 implementing strategies to improve early detection and,
 87 consequently, reduce the number of patients succumbing to
 88 prostate cancer. ~~A Prostate Cancer Advisory committee is created~~
 89 ~~to advise and assist the Department of Health and the Florida~~
 90 ~~Public Health Institute, Inc., in implementing the program.~~

91 (a) The State Surgeon General shall appoint, upon
 92 recommendation of the Executive Director of the University of
 93 Florida Prostate Disease Center in consultation with the
 94 Department of Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and
 95 the Florida Cancer Control Program, geographically and
 96 institutionally diverse task force ~~the advisory committee~~
 97 members, who shall consist of:

98 1. Two ~~Three~~ persons from prostate cancer survivor groups
 99 or cancer-related advocacy groups.

100 2. Three persons who are scientists or clinicians from in-
 101 state public universities or community practitioners who are
 102 known experts in prostate cancer care, research, or education
 103 ~~research organizations.~~

104 3. Three persons who are engaged in the practice of a
 105 cancer-related medical specialty from health organizations
 106 committed to cancer research and control.

107 4. The Executive Director of the University of Florida
 108 Prostate Disease Center or his or her designee.

109 (b) Members shall serve without compensation but are
 110 entitled to reimbursement, pursuant to s. 112.061, for per diem
 111 and travel expenses incurred in the performance of their
 112 official duties.

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113 (c) Each member of the task force shall be appointed to a
114 4-year term, except that the Executive Director of the
115 University of Florida Prostate Disease Center or his or her
116 designee shall serve as a permanent member of the task force.
117 For the purpose of providing staggered terms, of the initial
118 appointments, four members shall be appointed to 2-year terms
119 and four members shall be appointed to 4-year terms. A member of
120 the council may be removed at any time by the State Surgeon
121 General, who shall appoint a replacement upon the recommendation
122 of the Executive Director of the University of Florida Prostate
123 Disease Center in consultation with other task force members and
124 the Department of Health's designated subcommittees.

125 (d) The task force shall meet twice a year and at other
126 times upon the call of the Executive Director of the University
127 of Florida Prostate Disease Center or a majority of the task
128 force members.

129 (e) Five members of the task force shall constitute a
130 quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members
131 present is required for final action.

132 (f) The task force shall:

133 1. Present prostate cancer-related policy recommendations
134 to the Department of Health and other appropriate governmental
135 entities.

136 2. Verify the accuracy of prostate cancer information
137 disseminated to the public.

138 3. Develop effective communication channels among all
139 private and public entities across the state that are involved
140 in prostate cancer education, research, treatment, and patient

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141 advocacy.

142 4. Plan, develop, and implement activities designed to
143 heighten awareness and educate residents of this state,
144 especially residents in underserved areas, regarding the
145 importance of early detection and effective treatment options
146 for prostate cancer.

147 5. Disseminate information on recent progress in prostate
148 cancer research and the availability of clinical trials.

149 6. Minimize health disparities through outreach,
150 education, and screening events.

151 7. Communicate best practice principles to physicians
152 involved in the care of prostate cancer patients.

153 8. Establish a communication platform for patients and
154 their advocates.

155 9. Conduct an annual prostate cancer symposium that brings
156 physicians, researchers, community leaders, prostate cancer
157 survivors, and prostate cancer advocates together to highlight
158 recent advances in prostate cancer research, clinical trials,
159 and best practices in the prevention of the disease and to
160 promote strategies for successful rural and urban outreach,
161 community education, and increased awareness.

162 10. Submit and present an annual report to the Governor,
163 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
164 Representatives, and the State Surgeon General by January 15,
165 beginning in 2011, that contains recommendations for legislative
166 changes necessary to decrease the incidence of prostate cancer,
167 decrease racial and ethnic disparities, and promote increased
168 community education and awareness.

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169 ~~(4) The program shall coordinate its efforts with those of~~
170 ~~the Florida Public Health Institute, Inc.~~

171 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.