

SPONSOR: Rep. Hudson & Sen. Sorenson & Rep. Maier

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

141st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 310

AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 16, DELAWARE CODE CREATING THE COMMISSIONER FOR MEN'S HEALTH WITHIN THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

WHEREAS, a silent health crisis is affecting the health and well-being of Delaware men; and

WHEREAS, this health crisis is of particular concern to men but is also a concern for women and especially to those who have fathers, husbands, sons and brothers; and

WHEREAS, men's health is likewise a concern for employers who lose productive employees as well as pay the costs of medical care; and

WHEREAS, the life expectancy gap between men and women has steadily increased from one year in 1920 to seven years in 1990; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Health Statistics has shown that men have higher age-adjusted death rates than women for each of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, almost twice as many men than women die from heart disease and the incidence of stroke among men is nearly 20% higher than for women; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent more men than women die of cancer; and

WHEREAS, studies show that men are at least 25% less likely than women to visit a doctor and are significantly less likely to have regular physician check-ups and obtain preventive screening tests for serious diseases;

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend Chapter 1, Title 16, Delaware Code by adding a new section to read as follows:

"§111. Commissioner for Men's Health.

(a) The Director of the Division of Public Health shall appoint one member of the Division to be the Commissioner for Men's Health.

(b) The Commissioner for Men's Health shall have the following duties:

(1) Develop strategies, public policy recommendations and programs, including community outreach and public-private partnerships, that are designed to educate Delaware men on the benefits of regular physician check-ups, early detection and preventive screening tests and healthy lifestyle practices.

(2) Focus on improving health outcomes of men in specific disease areas including, but not limited to, prostate and testicular cancer, cardiovascular disease, including high blood pressure, stroke and heart attacks, depression and suicide and diabetes.

(3) Investigate the causes for higher disease rates and mortality among men including the effects that income, occupation, family structure, type of physician care and access to health insurance have on men's health.

(4) Monitor state and federal policy and legislation that may affect the areas of men's health.

(5) Submit an annual report to the General Assembly and the Governor with his or her findings and recommendations no later than December 31 of each year.

SYNOPSIS

This Act creates the position of Commissioner of Men's Health to address problems relating to men's health.