

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5425

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING MEN'S HEALTH.

Vote Date: 3/22/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/13/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL

The Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Acknowledging that there is limited awareness of men's health issues, this bill proposes establishing a pilot program to support community-based screening for common diseases affecting high risk male populations. It also requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to report annually on the findings of the pilot program to the Public Health Committee of the Legislature.

Substitute language changes the proposal from establishing a pilot program to requiring DPH to develop educational programs for diseases affecting high risk males and allowing DPH to contract with community health workers on education and screening.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Geraldo Reyes, Representative (75 District), Connecticut General Assembly (CGA):

Representative Reyes, recently diagnosed with cancer, has found through research that most men do not get tested for common diseases such as colon and prostate cancer. His research also substantiates the fact that men of color have the highest incidences of death and a lack of testing and pre-screening for these medical conditions. His concerns include:

- Access to healthcare services for men
- Mental health support
- Preventative health programs
- Employment and economic opportunities
- Legal and social justice reforms

Manisha Juthani, Commissioner, Department of Public Health (DPH):

Dr. Juthani agrees that there is a need for increased awareness of preventative screenings and regular healthcare for men of all ages. Dr. Juthani states that, while in support of establishing the pilot program, DPH will require additional resources that were not included in the Governor's budget.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

There was no other testimony in support of this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

There was no testimony in opposition to this bill.

Reported by: Dave Rackliffe, Asst. Clerk

Date: March 27, 2024