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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 1191**

#### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PANCREATIC CANCER SCREENING AND TREATMENT REFERRAL PROGRAM.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner, by January 1, 2026, and within available appropriations, to establish a pancreatic cancer screening and treatment referral program within DPH (with services provided by outside providers).

The program must (1) promote pancreatic cancer screening, detection, and treatment among unserved or underserved populations, while giving priority to minority communities; (2) educate the public about this cancer and the benefits of early detection; and (3) provide counseling and treatment referral services.

Under the bill, “unserved or underserved populations” are patients (1) at or below 250% of the federal poverty level for individuals (250% is \$39,125 for 2025); (2) without health coverage for pancreatic cancer screening services; and (3) of an age at which these screening services are deemed appropriate by medical professionals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

#### **PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

The bill requires the program to include creating a public education and outreach initiative to publicize (1) pancreatic cancer screening services and the extent of health coverage that may be available for them; (2) the benefits of early detection and the recommended frequency of screening services, including clinical examinations; and (3) the medical assistance program (e.g., Medicaid) and any other public or private program that patients may use to access these services.

Under the bill, the program must also include screening and

treatment referral services by providers who register with DPH. This includes necessary screening and referral services for this cancer, including surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and related medical follow-up services.

The program must also at least do the following:

1. develop professional education programs that include information on the benefits of early detection of pancreatic cancer and the recommended screening frequency;
2. establish a system to track and follow up on patients screened through the program, including follow-up of abnormal results, treatment referrals when needed, and tracking these patients to be screened at recommended intervals; and
3. include a way to determine whether participating providers comply with national and state quality assurance requirements.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 0 (02/10/2025)