

Wilmington, Delaware
June 20, 2024

#0448

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
B. Fields**

Co-Sponsors:

**Council
President
Congo**

**Council
Members
Cabrera
White**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council 2022-2025 Strategic Plan envisions a “Healthy Wilmington.” House Substitute 1 for House Bill 302 (HS 1 for HB 302), An Act to Amend Title 18 of the Delaware Code Relating to Prostate Cancer Screening, improves access to prostate cancer screenings by requiring health insurance providers to cover screenings in accordance with the guidelines issued by the American Cancer Society; and

WHEREAS, prostate cancer leads as one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers for men in the United States and Delaware. Prostate cancer is curable if detected early. Prostate cancer screening allows doctors to identify, and develop a plan for treating, prostate cancer before symptoms manifest and spread. HS 1 for HB 302 would require that all standard health insurance policies cover “medically necessary and clinically appropriate” methods to detect and diagnose prostate cancer for all males within the American Cancer Society’s recommended risk categories; and

WHEREAS, risks of developing prostate cancer grow with age. The American Cancer Society recommends that at age 50, men with average risk factors discuss screening options with their physicians. Black men and those whose father or brother have been diagnosed at an early age are encouraged to begin screening at 45 years old. Men with more elevated risks, or those who have more than one first-degree relative with prostate cancer, are encouraged to screen at 40 years old. Subsequential screenings should occur every one to two years, depending on the test results. HS 1 for HB 302 would ensure that more men have access to screening options as a standard benefit of their health insurance plans; and

WHEREAS, HS 1 for HB 302 facilitates early detection of prostate cancer, which has been found to be the most effective strategy for mitigating the impact of the disease and preventing the loss of lives. In 2020, prostate cancer was the second leading cause of death for males in Delaware. From 2015 to 2019, prostate cancer diagnoses proved fatal for non-Hispanic Black males at more than twice the rate of their White counterparts in Delaware. Incorporating this fundamental prevention tool into the standard coverage of health insurance policies would represent a major advancement toward improving the quality of life for Delawareans at risk of developing prostate cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body is in favor of House Substitute 1 for House Bill 302 (HS 1 for HB 302), An Act to Amend Title 18 of the Delaware Code Relating to Prostate Cancer Screening.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative body encourages the members of the Delaware General Assembly to support House Substitute 1 for House Bill 302 (HS 1 for HB 302), An Act to Amend Title 18 of the Delaware Code Relating to Prostate Cancer Screening for the benefit of male Delawareans impacted by the risk of prostate cancer.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution expresses favor for House Substitute 1 for House Bill 302 (HS 1 for HB 302), An Act to Amend Title 18 of the Delaware Code Relating to Prostate Cancer Screening, which would require health insurance providers to include prostate cancer screenings among its covered preventative health services for males identified as being at risk of developing prostate cancer by the American Cancer Society screening recommendations.