

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 779

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of prostate cancer screening tests under part B of the medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 1995

Mrs. VUCANOVICH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce and, in addition, to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of prostate cancer screening tests under part B of the medicare program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Medicare Prostate
5 Cancer Screening Act of 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Prostate cancer is the second leading cause
2 of cancer death among men.

3 (2) An estimated 244,000 new cases of prostate
4 cancer in the United States are expected during
5 1995.

6 (3) An estimated 40,400 men are expected to
7 die of prostate cancer during 1995.

8 (4) The incidence of prostate cancer increases
9 with age and over 80 percent of all prostate cancers
10 are diagnosed in men over age 65.

11 (5) Early detection of prostate cancer is the
12 best way to control its growth and treat the tumors.

13 (6) Survival rates for prostate cancer have
14 steadily improved from 50 percent to 80 percent in
15 the past 30 years largely due to increases in the
16 early detection of the disease.

17 (7) The American Cancer Society and other
18 health organizations recommend an annual digital
19 rectal examination for men starting at age 40 and
20 an annual prostate-specific antigen blood test start-
21 ing at age 50.

22 **SEC. 3. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF PROSTATE CANCER**
23 **SCREENING TESTS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social
25 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)), as amended by sec-

1 tion 147(f)(6)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act Amend-
2 ments of 1994, is amended—

3 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
4 graph (N); and

5 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (O) the fol-
6 lowing new subparagraph:

7 “(P) prostate cancer screening tests (as defined
8 in subsection (oo));”.

9 (b) TESTS DESCRIBED.—Section 1861 of such Act
10 (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended by adding at the end the
11 following new subsection:

12 “Prostate Cancer Screening Tests

13 “(oo) The term ‘prostate cancer screening test’
14 means a test that consists of a digital rectal examination
15 or a prostate-specific antigen blood test (or both) provided
16 for the purpose of early detection of prostate cancer to
17 a man over 40 years of age who has not had such a test
18 during the preceding year.”.

19 (c) PAYMENT FOR PROSTATE-SPECIFIC ANTIGEN
20 BLOOD TEST UNDER CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORA-
21 TORY TEST FEE SCHEDULES.—Section 1833(h)(1)(A) of
22 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(h)(1)(A)) is amended by in-
23 serting after “laboratory tests” the following: “(including
24 prostate cancer screening tests under section 1861(oo)
25 consisting of prostate-specific antigen blood tests)”.

1 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1862(a) of
2 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)) is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking
5 “and” at the end,

6 (B) in subparagraph (F), by striking the
7 semicolon at the end and inserting “, and”, and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following new
9 subparagraph:

10 “(G) in the case of prostate cancer screening
11 test (as defined in section 1861(oo)) provided for the
12 purpose of early detection of prostate cancer, which
13 are performed more frequently than is covered under
14 such section;”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking “paragraph
16 (1)(B) or under paragraph (1)(F)” and inserting
17 “subparagraphs (B), (F), or (G) of paragraph (1)”.

18 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

19 The amendments made by section 3 shall apply to
20 tests furnished on or after January 1, 1996.

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