



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 21, 2011

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell *Dmp/kjt* Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: S.B. 84 [DPH Cardiovascular Disease & Stroke Prevention Program]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B. 84 which establishes a Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Prevention Program within the Division of Public Health. The legislation would not be effective until the General Assembly appropriates sufficient funds for implementation. SCPD endorses the proposed legislation subject to consideration of the following observations.

First, since heart disease and stroke are the first and third leading causes of death in the State, it makes sense to prioritize prevention and data collection in these contexts. Moreover, the legislation could serve as a template for similar legislation to address prevention and data collection for traumatic brain injury.

Second, since incidence rates for heart disease and stroke may not vary significantly every 12-month period, SCPD recommends reconsideration of the requirement that the “maps shall be created annually and will be updated every year” (lines 55-56). The bill does not otherwise require data collection and publication on an annual basis (lines 35-55). The analogous statute requiring publication of cancer data maps by census tract does not require annual updating. See attached Title 16 Del.C. §2005. See also the attached DPH “Analysis of Census Tracts with 2002-2006 Elevated All-Site Cancer Rates (August 25, 2010)”. The report compiles results over a 5-year period. See also Title 16 Del.C. §2003(b) which authorizes “periodic” compilation and dissemination of health reports. It may be possible to reduce the fiscal note by deleting the requirement of annual updating.

Third, there is a possible “oversight” in the bill. Although lines 47-56 require the annual publication of data for both heart disease and strokes, lines 35-45 only require DHSS to compile data on strokes.

It is possible that DHSS already compiles heart disease data but it is “odd” to establish a “Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program” (line 3) whose “purposes” section contemplates serving as a resource for information on both heart disease and stroke data (line 16), but which omits a substantive section covering compilation of heart disease data. The sponsors and/or DHSS may wish to assess whether this is an oversight.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position or observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Jack A. Markell
Ms. Deborah Gottschalk
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

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