



SPONSOR: Sen. Hall-Long & Sen. Henry & Rep. Keeley  
Sens. Blevins, Sokola, Sorenson, Bushweller; Reps.  
Bennett, Hocker, Schooley, Q. Johnson, Ramone, Jaques  
& Thornburg

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
145th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 66

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend Chapter 1, Title 16 of the Delaware Code by adding new sections “§138” and “§139” to read as  
2 follows:

3 “§138. Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program.

4 (a) The Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program is hereby established within the Division of Public  
5 Health of the Department of Health and Social Services.

6 (b) Definitions. As used in this section and §139:

7 (1) ‘Division’ means the Division of Public Health.

8 (2) ‘Director’ means the Director of the Division of Public Health.

9 (3) ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Health and Social Services.

10 (c) The Program is established to address heart and cardiovascular disease and stroke-related health  
11 issues for the following purposes:

12 (1) to conduct health education, public awareness, and community outreach activities that relate to  
13 primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke;

14 (2) to assist the Division Director in identifying, coordinating and establishing priorities for programs,  
15 services and resources the State should provide for cardiovascular disease and stroke prevention;

16 (3) to serve as a resource for information regarding cardiovascular disease and stroke data, prevention  
17 strategies, treatment services and programs that address cardiovascular disease and stroke-related health issues;

18 (4) to identify to health care providers, employers, schools, community health centers, and other groups  
19 the benefits of encouraging treatment, primary and secondary prevention, and public awareness of cardiovascular  
20 disease and stroke prevention and to recognize innovative and effective programs that achieve the objectives of  
21 improved treatment, prevention, and public awareness;

22 (5) to provide guidance regarding the roles and responsibilities of government agencies, health care  
23 providers, employers, third-party payers, patients, and families of patients in the treatment, primary and secondary  
24 prevention, and public awareness of cardiovascular disease and stroke;

25 (6) to improve access to treatment for and primary and secondary prevention of heart and cardiovascular  
26 disease and stroke through public awareness programs, including access for uninsured individuals and individuals  
27 living in rural or underserved areas;

28 (7) to assist communities to develop comprehensive local cardiovascular disease and stroke prevention  
29 programs;

30 (8) to establish appropriate forums, programs, or initiatives designed to educate the public regarding the  
31 impact of heart disease and stroke on women's health, with an emphasis on preventive health and healthy  
32 lifestyles;

33 (9) To coordinate the activities and programs of the Department with other entities that focus on  
34 cardiovascular health or cardiovascular disease prevention or control, including but not limited to other state  
35 agencies.

36 (10) to evaluate and enhance the implementation and effectiveness of the Department and to seek funding  
37 from private or governmental entities to carry out the purposes of this section.

38 §139. Stroke Continuous Quality Improvement and Data.

39 (a) To achieve continuous quality improvement (CQI) in the quality of care to stroke patients, by  
40 improving stroke treatment and preventing future strokes and cardiovascular events the Department  
41 shall maintain aggregate statewide stroke data using stroke guidelines and allowing access to real-  
42 time data to facilitate process changes that lead to improved patient outcomes. The Department of  
43 Health and Social Services shall utilize a nationally available quality improvement and data  
44 collection tool that is based on nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines and align with the  
45 stroke consensus metrics developed and approved by the American Heart Association/American  
46 Stroke Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Joint Commission; and  
47 endorsed by the National Quality Forum. The Department of Health and Social Services shall make  
48 information and statistics available to the public on the agency's website. To every extent possible,  
49 the Department of Health and Social Services shall coordinate with national voluntary health  
50 organizations involved in stroke prevention and treatment to avoid duplication and redundancy.”

51 Section 2. Amend Chapter 20, Title 26, Delaware Code by adding a new Section “2009” to read as follows:

52 “§2009. Heart and Stroke Data

53 (a) Notwithstanding any provisions in this title to the contrary, the agency shall make available as public  
54 records heart disease and stroke incidence, morbidity, and mortality data by census tract. Such released data shall  
55 be assigned consensus tract geography from the most recent decennial census. If release of such information by  
56 census tract will explicitly or implicitly identify any individual, the agency may combine data among contiguous  
57 census tracts, but only insofar as is necessary to protect patient confidentiality.

58 (b) The agency shall create a detailed map of each county in Delaware that graphically illustrates the  
59 overall incidence of heart disease and stroke in each census tract. The census tracts will be identified on the maps  
60 and shall be color-coded to designate the degree of heart disease and stroke incidence in each tract. These maps  
61 shall be created annually and will be updated every year.

62 (c) The agency shall post the maps created under subsection (b) of this section above on their website in  
63 a format that can be easily accessed and read by the public.”

64 Section 3. Rules and Regulations

65 The Department of Health and Social Services is authorized to promulgate any additional rules and regulations  
66 that are necessary for the purposes of enactment of this Act.”

67 Section 4. Effective Date.

68 This Act shall become effective upon appropriation by the General Assembly of funds sufficient to implement its  
69 provisions.

SYNOPSIS

This Act establishes a Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Prevention Program within the Division of Public Health. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in this state and stroke is the third leading cause of death. The intent of this act is to reduce to incidence of cardiovascular disease and stroke in Delaware through the creation of a state program to promote health education, public awareness and community outreach activities and to improve access to treatment for and prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Author: Senator Hall-Long