

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Joint Resolution 6 (Senator Colburn, *et al.*)

Finance

Rules and Executive Nominations

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**Health - Prostate Cancer Screening**

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This joint resolution requests the U.S. Congress to seek the withdrawal of U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) draft recommendations against prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening for prostate cancer for men in all age groups.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** The prostate is a part of the male reproductive system and is located just below the bladder. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death among men in the United States, leading to more than 33,000 deaths annually. Individuals at higher risk for prostate cancer include African American men, men who are older than 60, and men who have a father or brother who has had prostate cancer.

USPSTF is an independent panel of primary care providers who are experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine. The panel conducts scientific evidence reviews of a range of clinical preventive health care services and develops recommendations for primary care clinicians and health systems. In October 2011, USPSTF recommended against PSA screening for prostate cancer among men who do not have symptoms that are highly

suspicious for prostate cancer. (PSA testing detects elevated levels of PSA, a blood protein, which may indicate prostate cancer.)

Maryland requires insurers to provide coverage for PSA testing for men who are between 40 and 75 years of age or when the testing is used for (1) the purpose of guiding patient management in monitoring the response to prostate cancer treatment; (2) staging in determining the need for a bone scan in patients with prostate cancer; or (3) male patients who are at a high risk for prostate cancer. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, at least 29 states have enacted laws requiring insurers to include PSA testing.

In January 2012, New Jersey passed a resolution opposing USPSTF's recommendations on the use of PSA testing.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HJ 13 (Delegate Donoghue, *et al.*) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

**Information Source(s):** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. National Library of Medicine, U.S. Preventative Services Task Force, National Conference of State Legislatures, American Cancer Society, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2012  
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