

SENATE BILL 902

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 7; Title 56; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71,
relative to breast cancer.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-249(a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() Commission on African American breast cancer research, created by § 68-1-2701;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

68-1-2701. There is created the commission on African American breast cancer research that is attached to the department of health for all administrative matters.

68-1-2702.

(a) No later than September 1 of the fiscal year in which funds are available to the commissioner of health for the purposes of this part, and every five (5) years thereafter, the governor shall appoint an executive director, who is the head of the commission, to serve for a term of five (5) years. The executive director serves at the pleasure of the governor. The executive director must have demonstrated knowledge, training, or experience in the area of African American breast cancer research.

(b) The term of office of the executive director commences on November 1 following the appointment. The governor shall appoint an executive director to serve the remainder of an unexpired term created by a vacancy that occurs as a result of resignation, removal, death, or other cause.

68-1-2703.

(a) The executive director may retain professional assistance and staff, including consultants, technical advisors, financial advisors, and legal support, and other personnel, including clerical assistants, as may reasonably be required to enable the commission to efficiently perform its duties as provided in § 68-1-2704. Employees of the commission must be employed in accordance with title 8, chapter 30, and the rules of the department of human resources, and are subject to personnel policies generally applicable to employees in the state service, such as leave, compensation, and classification.

(b) The executive director and all other employees are eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(c) All expenses of the commission, including salaries and benefits of its executive director and its employees, must be paid out of monies made available to the commissioner of health for purposes of this part. The salary and benefits of the executive director must be fixed by the commissioner and approved by the commissioner of human resources and the commissioner of finance and administration.

68-1-2704.

(a) The commission shall study breast cancer issues pertaining to African-American women in this state, including the risk, and frequency of diagnoses, of breast cancer among African-American women, the availability of screenings, mammograms, and other breast cancer diagnostic services for African-American women, and the need for breast cancer education and awareness services to help meet the needs of African-American women.

(b) The commission shall consult with appropriate medical societies and patient advocates related to breast cancer, and patient advocates representing racial and ethnic minority groups, with a special emphasis on African-American populations.

68-1-2705. On or before January 1, 2024, and on or before January 1 of each subsequent year, the executive director shall submit a report to the governor, the speakers of the senate and house of representatives, and the legislative librarian concerning the commission's findings and recommendations for changes to law, rule, or policy to promote the safety and well-being of African-American women and the prevention of breast cancer among such women.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.