

Public Act 24-19 Section. 8

Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall establish a working group to study nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, including nonalcoholic fatty liver and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The incidences of such disease in the state compared to incidences of such disease throughout the United States;

(2) The population groups most affected by and at risk of being diagnosed with such disease and the main risk factors contributing to its prevalence in such groups;

(3) Strategies for preventing such disease in high-risk populations and how such strategies can be implemented state-wide;

(4) Methods of increasing public awareness of such disease, including, but not limited to, public awareness campaigns educating the public regarding liver health;

(5) Whether implementation of a state-wide screening program for such disease in at-risk populations is recommended;

(6) Policy changes necessary to improve care and outcomes for patients with such disease;

(7) Insurance coverage and affordability issues that affect access to treatments for such disease;

(8) The creation of patient advocacy and support networks to assist persons living with such disease; and

(9) The manner in which social determinants of health influence the risk and outcomes of such disease and interventions needed to address such determinants.

(b) The working group shall include, but need not be limited to, the

following members:

(1) A physician with expertise in hepatology and gastroenterology representing an institution of higher education in the state;

(2) Three persons in the state living with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease;

(3) A representative of a patient advocacy organization in the state;

(4) A social worker with experience working with communities in underserved areas in the state and addressing social determinants of health;

(5) An expert in health care policy in the state with experience in advising on regulatory frameworks, health care access and insurance issues;

(6) A nutritionist and dietician in the state with experience in providing guidance on preventative measures and dietary interventions related to nonalcoholic fatty liver disease;

(7) A community health worker who works directly with underserved communities in the state in addressing social determinants of health;

(8) A representative of a nonprofit organization in the state focused on liver health; and

(9) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee.

(c) The cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall convene the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(d) The members of the working group shall select two cochairpersons from among the members of the working group.

(e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall submit a report on

its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11- 4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.