
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2111 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, MAHER, TURZAI, MUSTIO, READSHAW,
P. COSTA, MATZIE, D. COSTA, KAUFFMAN, SONNEY, KILLION,
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STERN, R. MILLER, GROVE, VEREB, BROOKS, HICKERNELL, GIBBONS,
MOUL, C. HARRIS, OBERLANDER, MURT, GALLOWAY, WATSON, DeLUCA,
MENTZER, REESE, EVERETT, DELOZIER, KORTZ, RAPP AND AUMENT,
MARCH 19, 2014

SENATOR VANCE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED,
JUNE 25, 2014

AN ACT

1 Requiring certain health care practitioners to disseminate
2 information relating to Down syndrome; and imposing duties on
3 the Department of Health.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Down Syndrome
8 Prenatal and Postnatal Education Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

1 "Down syndrome." A chromosomal condition caused by an error
2 in cell division that results in the presence of an extra or
3 partial copy of chromosome 21.

4 "Health care practitioner." A person who is licensed,
5 certified or otherwise authorized by law or regulation to
6 provide or render health care services or genetic counseling to
7 expectant or new parents.

8 Section 3. Dissemination of information on Down syndrome.

9 (a) Requirement.--A health care practitioner that
10 administers, or causes to be administered, a test for Down
11 syndrome to an expectant or new parent shall, upon receiving a
12 test result that is positive for Down syndrome, provide the
13 expectant or new parent with educational information made
14 available by the department under section 4.

15 (b) Compliance.--Delivery of information prepared by the
16 department in accordance with section 4 at the time genetic
17 results or diagnostic conclusions are provided shall constitute
18 compliance with this section.

19 Section 4. Informational publications by department.

20 (a) General rule.--The department shall make the following
21 available to health care practitioners on the department's
22 publicly accessible Internet website:

23 (1) Up-to-date, evidence-based information about Down
24 syndrome that has been reviewed by medical experts and
25 national Down syndrome organizations. The information
26 provided shall include the following:

27 (i) Physical, developmental, educational and
28 psychosocial outcomes.

29 (ii) Life expectancy.

30 (iii) Clinical course.

- 1 (iv) Intellectual and functional development.
- 2 (v) Treatment options.
- 3 (vi) Any other information the department deems
- 4 necessary.

5 (2) Contact information regarding First Call programs
6 and support services, including the following:

- 7 (i) Information hotlines specific to Down syndrome.
- 8 (ii) Relevant resource centers or clearinghouses.
- 9 (iii) National and local Down syndrome

10 organizations, ~~such as:~~ <--

11 ~~(A) Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania.~~ <--

12 ~~(B) Pennsylvania Early Intervention.~~

13 ~~(C) Other relevant education and support~~
14 ~~programs.~~

15 (IV) EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS. <--

16 (b) Form.--The information provided in accordance with this
17 act shall conform to the applicable standard or standards
18 provided in the Enhanced National Standards for Culturally and
19 Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care as
20 adopted by the United States Department of Health and Human
21 Services and published in the Federal Register on September 24,
22 2013.

23 Section 5. Effective date.

24 This act shall take effect in 60 days.