
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1333 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, BARTOLOTTA, VULAKOVICH AND SCHWANK,
JUNE 28, 2016

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
JUNE 28, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 20, 1974 (P.L.564, No.193), entitled
2 "An act providing for the increased use of peer review groups
3 by giving protection to individuals and data who report to
4 any review group," further providing for definitions.

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

7 Section 1. Section 2 of the act of July 20, 1974 (P.L.564,
8 No.193), known as the Peer Review Protection Act, amended
9 December 4, 1996 (P.L.896, No.142), is amended to read:

10 Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act:

11 "Peer review" means the procedure for evaluation by
12 professional health care providers of the quality and efficiency
13 of services ordered or performed by other professional health
14 care providers, including practice analysis, inpatient hospital
15 and extended care facility utilization review, medical audit,
16 ambulatory care review, claims review, and the compliance of a
17 hospital, nursing home or convalescent home or other health care
18 facility operated by a professional health care provider with

1 the standards set by an association of health care providers and
2 with applicable laws, rules and regulations. Peer review, as it
3 applies to veterinarians, shall mean the procedure for
4 evaluation by licensed doctors of veterinary medicine of the
5 quality and efficiency of veterinary medicine ordered or
6 performed by other doctors of veterinary medicine with the
7 standards set by an association of doctors of veterinary
8 medicine and with applicable laws, rules and regulations. The
9 term, as it applies to emergency medical services, shall mean
10 the procedure for evaluation by professional health care
11 providers of the quality and efficiency of services ordered or
12 performed by emergency medical services providers and physicians
13 who direct or supervise emergency medical services providers
14 under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 81 (relating to emergency medical services
15 system) and the regulations of the Department of Health.

16 "Professional health care provider" means:

17 (1) individuals or organizations who are approved, licensed
18 or otherwise regulated to practice or operate in the health care
19 field under the laws of the Commonwealth, including, but not
20 limited to, the following individuals or organizations:

21 (i) a physician;

22 (ii) a dentist;

23 (iii) a podiatrist;

24 (iv) a chiropractor;

25 (v) an optometrist;

26 (vi) a psychologist;

27 (vii) a pharmacist;

28 (viii) a registered or practical nurse;

29 (ix) a physical therapist;

30 (x) an administrator of a hospital, nursing or convalescent

1 home or other health care facility; [or]

2 (xi) a corporation or other organization operating a
3 hospital, nursing or convalescent home or other health care
4 facility; or

5 (xii) the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council, a
6 regional emergency medical services council, as defined under 35
7 Pa.C.S. § 8103 (relating to definitions) or the advisory council
8 for a regional emergency medical services council, as identified
9 under 35 Pa.C.S. § 8109(b)(1) (relating to regional emergency
10 medical services councils); or

11 (2) individuals licensed to practice veterinary medicine
12 under the laws of this Commonwealth.

13 "Professional society" includes medical, veterinary,
14 psychological, nursing, dental, optometric, pharmaceutical,
15 chiropractic and podiatric organizations having as members at
16 least a majority of the eligible licentiates in the area or
17 health care facility or agency served by the particular society.

18 "Review organization" means any committee engaging in peer
19 review, including a hospital utilization review committee, a
20 hospital tissue committee, a health insurance review committee,
21 a hospital plan corporation review committee, a professional
22 health service plan review committee, a dental review committee,
23 a physicians' advisory committee, a veterinary review committee,
24 a nursing advisory committee, any committee established pursuant
25 to the medical assistance program, and any committee established
26 by one or more State or local professional societies, to gather
27 and review information relating to the care and treatment of
28 patients for the purposes of (i) evaluating and improving the
29 quality of health care rendered; (ii) reducing morbidity or
30 mortality; or (iii) establishing and enforcing guidelines

1 designed to keep within reasonable bounds the cost of health
2 care. It shall also mean any hospital board, committee or
3 individual reviewing the professional qualifications or
4 activities of its medical staff or applicants for admission
5 thereto. It shall also mean a committee of an association of
6 professional health care providers reviewing the operation of
7 hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent homes or other health
8 care facilities. The term also means a review organization as
9 that term is defined under 35 Pa.C.S. § 8103.

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.