

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 546

Session of  
1975

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. SHANE, HAMMOCK, MRS. KELLY, MESSRS.  
DiCARLO, BELLOMINI, IRVIS, VANN, GALLAGHER, SHUPNIK, LINCOLN,  
COHEN, O'DONNELL, RHODES, COWELL, PANCOAST, DeMEDIO, WAGNER,  
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MORRIS, VALICENTI, HOPKINS, HASKELL, MUSTO, WARGO, WANSACZ,  
FLAHERTY, TRELLO, GEISLER, MRS. GILLETTE, MR. WALSH,  
MRS. KERNICK, MESSRS. NOYE, R. W. WILT, ZWIKL, GOODMAN,  
MRKONIC, PETRARCA, KOLTER, A. K. HUTCHINSON, SALOOM, BRUNNER,  
YAHNER, STOUT, GREEN, BRADLEY, McLANE, OLIVER, RUGGIERO,  
BARBER, DiDONATO, KNEPPER, CESSAR, FEE, FISCHER, FISHER,  
USTYNOSKI, GRIECO, TAYLOR AND GARZIA, FEBRUARY 19, 1975

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 19, 1975

AN ACT

1 Creating the Pennsylvania Medical Education Council;  
2 establishing the powers and duties of such council; creating  
3 Regional Advisory Boards to such council; regulating certain  
4 appropriations to medical schools and schools of osteopathy;  
5 and making an appropriation.

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

8 Section 1. Short Title.--This act shall be known and may be  
9 cited as the "Pennsylvania Medical Education Planning Act".

10 Section 2. Legislative Findings.--The Commonwealth of  
11 Pennsylvania is fortunate in the number and quality of medical  
12 schools located therein. However, there is no integrated system  
13 of medical education covering the entire State which assures an  
14 appropriate distribution of physicians throughout the

1 Commonwealth. The lack of such an integrated system results in a  
2 loss to both the medical schools and the community at large. The  
3 medical schools are unable to take advantage of the various  
4 medical facilities and the talents of individuals located  
5 throughout the Commonwealth. Many parts of the community at  
6 large are without sufficient health care while those parts which  
7 do have health care cannot take advantage of the advanced  
8 knowledge available at the medical schools. It is essential that  
9 an integrated Statewide medical education plan be developed for  
10 the benefit of both the medical schools and the community at  
11 large.

12 Section 3. Pennsylvania Medical Education Council.--There is  
13 hereby created an independent council to be known as the  
14 Pennsylvania Medical Education Council which shall consist of  
15 the following persons: the Secretary of Health and the Secretary  
16 of Education, or their respective designees; the deans of each  
17 of the accredited medical schools and schools of osteopathy in  
18 Pennsylvania; two physicians licensed to practice in  
19 Pennsylvania who are professionally qualified in a field of  
20 primary care appointed by the Governor; one representative from  
21 a Pennsylvania teaching hospital appointed by the Governor from  
22 a list of at least three names submitted by the Council of  
23 Teaching Hospitals; two members of the House of Representatives,  
24 one from each political party, selected by the Speaker of the  
25 House; and two members of the Senate, one from each political  
26 party selected by the President pro tempore of the Senate. The  
27 council shall select a chairman from among its members. Members  
28 shall receive no compensation, but shall be reimbursed for  
29 actual expenses incurred. The Secretary of Health shall provide  
30 the necessary administrative personnel and services. A quorum

1 shall consist of a majority of the total membership of the  
2 council and a majority vote of those present shall be sufficient  
3 in the resolution of any matter.

4 Section 4. Powers and Duties of the Council.--The council  
5 shall have the following powers and duties:

6 (1) Develop an integrated Statewide medical education plan  
7 which shall include the establishment of residency programs in  
8 community hospitals by the medical schools with the cooperation  
9 of the medical profession, hospitals, and clinics throughout the  
10 Commonwealth.

11 (2) Divide the Commonwealth into regions and determine which  
12 medical schools will operate in each region relative to the  
13 implementation of such integrated Statewide medical plan.

14 (3) Give priority in the development of such an integrated  
15 plan to those areas of the Commonwealth which have been  
16 designated as medically deprived by the Secretary of Health.

17 (4) Cooperate with any agency or political subdivision of  
18 the Commonwealth or any other public or private agency in the  
19 development of such an integrated plan including the right to  
20 enter into contracts with such agencies and to receive monetary  
21 aid or grants.

22 (5) Cooperate with the office of the Governor or any  
23 designated agency in the establishment of a Statewide  
24 communication system which will enable the medical profession,  
25 hospitals, and clinics throughout the Commonwealth to have a  
26 direct tie line and instantaneous communication with computer  
27 banks and specialists at the medical schools and medical  
28 centers.

29 (6) Contract with such consultants as may be deemed  
30 necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

1       Section 5.   Regional Advisory Boards.--In each region  
2   established by the council pursuant to clause (2) of section 4  
3   of this act, there is hereby created a Regional Advisory Board  
4   to the Pennsylvania Medical Education Council. Each such board  
5   shall consist of seven persons appointed by the Governor: Four  
6   of whom shall be involved with the delivery of health care; and  
7   three of whom shall not be involved with the delivery of health  
8   care and shall be consumer representatives. Members of the board  
9   shall serve for a four year term except those first appointed in  
10  which case; three shall be appointed for a three year term; and  
11  four shall be appointed for a four year term. Vacancies shall be  
12  made in the manner of the original appointments for the  
13  remainder of the unexpired term. The members of the board shall  
14  also represent a geographical balance of the region. Members of  
15  each board shall select a chairman from among its members and a  
16  majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. A majority  
17  vote of those present shall be sufficient in the resolution of  
18  any matter. The advisory boards shall meet at least twice during  
19  each year. Members shall receive no compensation but shall be  
20  reimbursed for actual expenses incurred.

21       The function of each board shall be to act in an advisory  
22  capacity to the council relative to the unique problems existing  
23  in the board's region to enable the council to have the best  
24  available information in the performance of the council's  
25  duties.

26       Section 6.   Regulation of Certain Appropriations to Medical  
27  Schools and Schools of Osteopathy.--Whenever any Commonwealth  
28  appropriation is made to any medical school or school of  
29  osteopathy on a student per capita basis, such appropriation  
30  shall be expended in the following manner unless otherwise

1 specifically designated in the act making such appropriation:

2 (1) Eighty per cent of such appropriation may be used at the  
3 discretion of the medical school or school of osteopathy;

4 (2) Twenty per cent of the first such appropriation made  
5 after the effective date of this act shall be used by the  
6 medical school or school of osteopathy to create a fund from  
7 which loans are made to students. For each year thereafter, such  
8 percentage of an appropriation shall first be used in an amount  
9 which shall maintain such loan fund at an amount equal to twenty  
10 per cent of the total appropriation for that year. Any amount  
11 remaining after such maintenance of the loan fund may be used at  
12 the discretion of the medical school or school of osteopathy.

13 This loan program shall be administered either by the medical  
14 school or school of osteopathy, or in the alternative, the  
15 medical school or school of osteopathy shall have the power to  
16 enter into an agreement with the Pennsylvania Higher Education  
17 Assistance Agency for the purpose of the administration of such  
18 loan program. Such agreement may provide for the payment of  
19 costs of administration to such agency from the loan fund. The  
20 Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency is hereby  
21 authorized to enter into such agreements and to administer such  
22 loan programs in accordance with the terms of such agreements  
23 and the provisions of this act. Such loan program shall provide  
24 that for each year a graduate practices in any area of the  
25 Commonwealth designated as medically deprived by the Secretary  
26 of Health twenty per cent of the total of such loan shall be  
27 forgiven.

28 Section 7. Appropriation.--The sum of \$350,000, or as much  
29 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the  
30 Pennsylvania Medical Education Council for the purposes of this

1 act. Every year thereafter, the General Assembly shall  
2 appropriate that amount of funds as it deems necessary to carry  
3 out the purposes of this act.

4 Section 8. Effective Date.--This act shall take effect  
5 immediately.