

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 173 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY LLOYD, CIVERA, HALUSKA, STEELMAN, JOSEPHS,
LAUGHLIN, VANCE, READSHAW, MILLER, DeLUCA, M. COHEN,
M. N. WRIGHT, McCALL, EGOLF, STABACK, PESCI, DALEY, TRELLO,
COY, STERN, ITKIN, BELARDI, FAIRCHILD, PETRONE, SATHER AND
COLAFELLA, JANUARY 23, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
JANUARY 23, 1995

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," extending the protection given by the act
5 to review committees of associations of veterinarians; and
6 redefining "professional health care providers" to include
7 veterinarians.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 2 of the act of July 20, 1974 (P.L.564,
11 No.193), known as the Peer Review Protection Act, amended
12 October 5, 1978 (P.L.1121, No.262), is amended to read:

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

14 "Peer review" means the procedure for evaluation by
15 professional health care providers of the quality and efficiency
16 of services ordered or performed by other professional health
17 care providers, including practice analysis, inpatient hospital
18 and extended care facility utilization review, medical audit,

1 ambulatory care review, claims review, and the compliance of a
2 hospital, nursing home or convalescent home or other health care
3 facility operated by a professional health care provider with
4 the standards set by an association of health care providers and
5 with applicable laws, rules and regulations. Peer review, as it
6 applies to veterinarians, shall mean the procedure for
7 evaluation by licensed doctors of veterinary medicine of the
8 quality and efficiency of veterinary medicine ordered or
9 performed by other doctors of veterinary medicine with the
10 standards set by an association of doctors of veterinary
11 medicine and with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

12 "Professional health care provider" means:

13 (1) individuals or organizations who are approved, licensed
14 or otherwise regulated to practice or operate in the health care
15 field under the laws of the Commonwealth, including, but not
16 limited to, the following individuals or organizations:

17 [(1) A physician.

18 (2) A dentist.

19 (3) A podiatrist.

20 (4) A chiropractor.

21 (5) An optometrist.

22 (6) A psychologist.

23 (7) A pharmacist.

24 (8) A registered or practical nurse.

25 (9) A physical therapist.

26 (10) An administrator of a hospital, a nursing or
27 convalescent home, or other health care facility.

28 (11) A corporation or other organization operating a
29 hospital, a nursing or convalescent home or other health care
30 facility.]

1 (i) a physician;
2 (ii) a dentist;
3 (iii) a podiatrist;
4 (iv) a chiropractor;
5 (v) an optometrist;
6 (vi) a psychologist;
7 (vii) a pharmacist;
8 (viii) a registered or practical nurse;
9 (ix) a physical therapist;
10 (x) an administrator of a hospital, a nursing or
11 convalescent home or other health care facility; or
12 (xi) a corporation or other organization operating a
13 hospital, a nursing or convalescent home or other health care
14 facility; or
15 (2) individuals licensed to practice veterinary medicine
16 under the laws of this Commonwealth.

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

22 "Review organization" means any committee engaging in peer
23 review, including a hospital utilization review committee, a
24 hospital tissue committee, a health insurance review committee,
25 a hospital plan corporation review committee, a professional
26 health service plan review committee, a dental review committee,
27 a physicians' advisory committee, a veterinary review committee,
28 a nursing advisory committee, any committee established pursuant
29 to the medical assistance program, and any committee established
30 by one or more State or local professional societies, to gather

1 and review information relating to the care and treatment of
2 patients for the purposes of (i) evaluating and improving the
3 quality of health care rendered; (ii) reducing morbidity or
4 mortality; or (iii) establishing and enforcing guidelines
5 designed to keep within reasonable bounds the cost of health
6 care. It shall also mean any hospital board, committee or
7 individual reviewing the professional qualifications or
8 activities of its medical staff or applicants for admission
9 thereto. It shall also mean a committee of an association of
10 professional health care providers reviewing the operation of
11 hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent homes or other health
12 care facilities.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.