

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2268 Session of
1998

INTRODUCED BY ORIE, O'BRIEN, BEBKO-JONES, VAN HORNE, STEELMAN,
TRAVAGLIO, COY, HERMAN, PIPPY, STEIL, J. TAYLOR, DALLY,
MANDERINO, WAUGH, E. Z. TAYLOR, PHILLIPS, DALEY, GEIST,
ROBINSON, BARD, WASHINGTON, LAUGHLIN, YOUNGBLOOD, JOSEPHS,
BELARDI, C. WILLIAMS, HENNESSEY, TRELLO, BISHOP, RAYMOND,
JAMES, ROONEY, WALKO AND CALTAGIRONE, FEBRUARY 25, 1998

SENATOR MOWERY, PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, IN SENATE, AS
AMENDED, OCTOBER 6, 1998

AN ACT

1 Providing for screening of patients for symptoms of domestic
2 violence; establishing the Domestic Violence Health Care
3 Response Program in the Department of Public Welfare; AND <—
4 providing for domestic violence medical advocacy projects to
5 assist in implementation of domestic violence policies,
6 procedures, health care worker training and hospital, health
7 center and clinic response to domestic violence victims. and <—
8 ~~making an appropriation.~~

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Short title.

12 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Domestic
13 Violence Health Care Response Act.

14 Section 2. Definitions.

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

18 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare of the

1 Commonwealth.

2 "Domestic Violence Program." A nonprofit organization or
3 program having a primary purpose of providing services to
4 domestic violence victims, including, but not limited to, crisis
5 hot line, safe homes or shelter, community education,
6 counseling, victim advocacy, systems intervention and
7 information, transportation, information and referral and victim
8 assistance.

9 "Health center." A for-profit or nonprofit health center
10 providing clinically related health services.

11 "Health clinic." A for-profit or nonprofit clinic providing
12 health services.

13 "Hospital." A for-profit or nonprofit basic, general or
14 comprehensive hospital providing clinically related health
15 services.

16 "Medical advocacy." The provision of education and training
17 for the purpose of universal screening in order to identify
18 victims of domestic violence who are seeking medical treatment
19 for related or unrelated reasons.

20 "Universal screening." The process of asking ~~all~~ patients <—
21 seeking medical treatment at a hospital, health center or clinic
22 during the course of medical examinations or treatment about the
23 possibility of domestic violence within their relationships,
24 regardless of whether they are suspected to be victims of
25 domestic violence.

26 Section 3. Domestic Violence Health Care Response Program.

27 (a) Establishment of program.--There is established within
28 the Department of Public Welfare the Domestic Violence Health
29 Care Response Program.

30 (b) Purpose of programs.--The purpose of the program shall

1 be to support the development of ~~up to 25~~ domestic violence
2 medical advocacy projects in this Commonwealth which would
3 assist in the implementation of domestic violence policies and
4 procedures as well as provide training for health care workers
5 to improve hospital, health center and clinic response to
6 domestic violence victims seeking medical treatment.

7 (c) Medical advocacy project sites.--The department shall
8 select medical advocacy project sites with representation from
9 urban, rural and suburban areas. To ensure the effectiveness of
10 the program, the project sites shall not be publicized.

11 (d) Annual report.--Utilizing information provided under
12 subsection (e)(5), the department shall compile an annual report
13 to be submitted to the chairman and minority chairman of the
14 Appropriations Committee of the Senate and the chairman and
15 minority chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House
16 of Representatives providing oversight of the Department of
17 Public Welfare.

18 (e) Program elements.--Each domestic violence medical
19 advocacy project shall:

20 (1) Demonstrate active collaboration between a local
21 community-based domestic violence program and the hospital,
22 health center or clinic participating in the project.

23 (2) Develop and implement uniform multidisciplinary
24 domestic violence policies and procedures which incorporate
25 the roles and responsibilities of all staff who provide
26 services or interact with victims of domestic violence,
27 including the identification of victims of domestic violence
28 through universal screening.

29 (3) Develop and implement a multidisciplinary,
30 comprehensive and ongoing domestic violence education and

1 training program for hospital, health center or clinic
2 personnel adapted to the particular hospital's, health
3 center's or clinic's demographics, policies, staffing
4 patterns and resources. The training program shall include,
5 but is not limited to, identifying characteristics of
6 domestic violence, screening all patients for domestic
7 violence, appropriately documenting in the medical record and
8 offering referral services, including domestic violence
9 resources available in the community.

10 (4) Provide available educational materials to inform
11 victims of domestic violence about the services and
12 assistance available through the domestic violence program.

13 (5) Develop formal project assessment procedures,
14 including, but not limited to, coordinating and collecting
15 data for the evaluation of the projects and their
16 effectiveness in reducing the incidence of domestic violence
17 and overall health care costs, including emergency room
18 costs.

19 ~~Section 4. Appropriation.~~

20 ~~The sum of \$1,500,000, or as much thereof as may be required,~~
21 ~~is hereby appropriated to the Department of Public Welfare for~~
22 ~~fiscal year July 1, 1998, to June 30, 1999, to carry out the~~
23 ~~provisions of this act. This appropriation may not be used to~~
24 ~~supplant Federal and State funds otherwise available for~~
25 ~~domestic violence services.~~

26 ~~Section 5 4. Effective date.~~

27 ~~This act shall take effect July 1, 1998 1999, or immediately,~~
28 ~~whichever is later.~~