

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1442 Session of
1999

INTRODUCED BY L. I. COHEN, BARD, BEBKO-JONES, BENNINGHOFF,
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MAY 4, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 4, 1999

AN ACT

1 Requiring the Department of Health to pay for education programs
2 relating to anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge-
3 eating disorders.

4 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

5 (1) Anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa are emotional
6 diseases that evolve slowly and lead to deterioration of the
7 human body.

8 (2) Five percent of adolescent and adult women and one
9 percent of men have an eating disorder.

10 (3) Fifteen percent of young women have substantially
11 disordered eating attitudes and behaviors.

12 (4) Patients in the early stages (less than six months)
13 may be successfully treated without being admitted to the
14 hospital, but patients with more serious problems need care
15 in a hospital.

16 (5) Treatment involves more than changing eating habits;

1 in addition, it involves a comprehensive overview of an
2 individual's emotional state through counseling and a medical
3 decision as to whether or not medicine must be prescribed for
4 the patient.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Eating
9 Disorder Prevention and Treatment Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Anorexia nervosa." A disorder in which preoccupation with
15 dieting and thinness leads to excessive weight loss. The
16 individual may not acknowledge that weight loss or restricted
17 eating is a problem.

18 "Bulimia nervosa." Involves frequent episodes of binge
19 eating which is always followed by purging and intense feelings
20 of guilt, shame and being out of control.

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

22 "Health care provider." A physician, registered nurse,
23 dentist, podiatrist, psychologist, physical therapist, certified
24 registered nurse practitioner, physician's assistant,
25 chiropractor, home health provider, hospital, rehabilitation
26 hospital or long-term care provider.

27 "Program." The Eating Disorder Prevention and Treatment
28 Program established by this act.

29 Section 3. Eating Disorder Prevention and Treatment Program.

30 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish the

1 Eating Disorder Prevention and Treatment Program in accordance
2 with this act.

3 (b) Administration.--In the administration of the program,
4 the department shall have the following duties:

5 (1) The department shall provide staff support and
6 departmental resources as necessary to implement the program.

7 (2) The department shall identify appropriate public and
8 nonpublic entities to assist in the implementation and
9 operation of the program.

10 (3) The department shall collect and maintain up-to-date
11 scientific and other information that will increase public
12 awareness and contribute to education programs, including,
13 but not limited to, risk factors, appropriate diet and
14 exercise, diagnostic procedures, Food and Drug
15 Administration-approved drug therapies, rehabilitation and
16 safety and injury prevention measures.

17 (4) The department shall develop relationships with
18 governmental agencies, community and business leaders,
19 community organizations, health care and human service
20 providers and national eating disorder organizations to
21 coordinate efforts and maximize public and private resources
22 in the areas of prevention, education and treatment.

23 (5) The department shall use various methods for raising
24 public awareness of the causes and effects of eating
25 disorders, personal risk factors, prevention, early diagnosis
26 and treatment, including, but not limited to:

27 (i) An outreach campaign utilizing print, radio and
28 television public service announcements, advertisements,
29 posters and other materials; distribution of information
30 at public events, community forums, targeting of at-risk

1 populations and provision of reliable information to
2 policymakers.

3 (ii) Distribution of information through county and
4 district health offices, city and county health
5 departments, schools, employer wellness programs, health
6 care providers, insurers, including health maintenance
7 organizations and nonprofit and community organizations.

8 (6) The department shall use methods to educate
9 consumers of eating disorder services, including, but not
10 limited to:

11 (i) The procurement of brochures, videotapes and
12 other materials.

13 (ii) The establishment of a Statewide capacity to
14 provide information on all aspects of eating disorders.

15 (iii) The procurement of educational information to
16 consumers of eating disorder-related services through the
17 use of toll-free number.

18 (7) The department shall develop and maintain a
19 repository of information provided to the department
20 regarding the following:

21 (i) Research programs information and technical
22 assistance for health care and human service providers
23 and organizations.

24 (ii) Services that may be required by eating
25 disorder patients.

26 (iii) Information on types of services available to
27 eating disorder patients in this Commonwealth.

28 (iv) Information received from health-care providers
29 relating to the number and location of appropriate eating
30 disorder support group and treatment facilities in this

1 Commonwealth.

2 (v) The department shall provide health care and
3 health service providers and organizations with
4 information regarding the contents of the repository and
5 procedures to access the information maintained in the
6 repository.

7 (c) Technical assistance.--The department shall provide
8 technical assistance regarding the development of eating
9 disorders programs and materials, including, but not limited to,
10 the extent specified in this section.

11 Section 4. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect in 60 days.