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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2157 Session of  
2009

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INTRODUCED BY BOYLE, DeLUCA, BELFANTI, BRENNAN, BROWN, FREEMAN,  
KORTZ, MANN, McGEEHAN, MUNDY, MURPHY, M. O'BRIEN, M. SMITH,  
BRIGGS, BISHOP AND JOSEPHS, DECEMBER 9, 2009

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DECEMBER 9,  
2009

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AN ACT

1 Creating the Pennsylvania Chronic Care Commission, providing for  
2 responsibilities and duties of the commission and for duties  
3 of the Department of Health.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania  
8 Chronic Care Commission Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Chronic care model." A model of care that includes the  
14 following:

15 (1) The provision of effective health management through  
16 support and information that also promotes patient self-care  
17 for patients with chronic conditions.

1           (2) The use of evidence-based medicine to ensure  
2 appropriate treatment decisions by health care providers.

3           (3) The coordination of care and use of reasonably  
4 accessible and updated patient information that encourages  
5 follow-up care as a standard procedure.

6           (4) The tracking of clinical information for individual  
7 and general patient populations to guide treatment and  
8 effectively anticipate community health care problems.

9 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Chronic Care Commission.

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

11 "Health care facility." A health care facility as defined  
12 under section 802.1 of the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130,  
13 No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act, or an entity  
14 licensed as a hospital under the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,  
15 No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code.

16 "Health care provider." A health care provider licensed to  
17 practice a component of the healing arts by a licensing board  
18 within the Department of State who provides health care services  
19 at a community-based health care clinic.

20 "Health payor." An individual or entity paying for health  
21 services for himself or itself or on behalf of another.

22 "Hospital." An entity located in this Commonwealth that is  
23 licensed as a hospital under the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130,  
24 No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act.

25 "Insurer." A company or health insurance entity licensed in  
26 this Commonwealth to issue any health, sickness or accident  
27 policy or subscriber contract or certificate or plan that  
28 provides medical or health care coverage by a health care  
29 facility or licensed health care provider that is offered or  
30 governed under any of the following:

1           (1) The act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as  
2 The Insurance Company Law of 1921.

3           (2) The act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701, No.364),  
4 known as the Health Maintenance Organization Act.

5           (3) The act of May 18, 1976 (P.L.123, No.54), known as  
6 the Individual Accident and Sickness Insurance Minimum  
7 Standards Act.

8           (4) 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to hospital plan  
9 corporations) or 63 (relating to professional health service  
10 plan corporations).

11 "Regional community learning collaborative." A collaboration  
12 between health care facilities, health care providers,  
13 hospitals, insurers, health payors and consumers to exchange  
14 information about chronic care models and assist in efforts  
15 toward adoption of a chronic care model.

16 Section 3. Pennsylvania Chronic Care Commission.

17 There is established in the department the Pennsylvania  
18 Chronic Care Commission whose purpose is to design and implement  
19 the informational, technological and reimbursement  
20 infrastructure needed to support widespread dissemination,  
21 adaptation and implementation of the components for chronic care  
22 in relevant health care facilities and among health care  
23 providers throughout this Commonwealth.

24 Section 4. Powers and duties.

25 The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

26           (1) Determine how to align and integrate the components  
27 for chronic care into the current health care system and into  
28 currently existing chronic care models throughout this  
29 Commonwealth. These components include, but are not limited  
30 to, the following:

1 (i) providing patients with chronic conditions  
2 support and information to effectively manage their  
3 health;

4 (ii) providing information for health care providers  
5 to make treatment decisions based on evidence-based  
6 medicine;

7 (iii) ensuring that health care providers have  
8 access to current information about patients and that  
9 follow-up care is provided as a standard procedure;

10 (iv) collecting clinical information on individual  
11 patients and groups of patients that leads to the  
12 development of treatment guidelines;

13 (v) engaging patients and health care providers in  
14 chronic care improvement efforts; and

15 (vi) forming partnerships with State and local  
16 organizations to support and expand efforts to treat and  
17 care for those with chronic diseases.

18 (2) Participate in the establishment of regional  
19 community learning collaboratives to educate health care  
20 providers, health care teams and consumers on the components  
21 for chronic care and evidence-based treatment of chronic  
22 disease.

23 (3) Identify, assess and disseminate information on  
24 current efforts surrounding the implementation and  
25 maintenance of chronic care models in each regional community  
26 learning collaborative and across this Commonwealth.

27 (4) Develop guidelines for the review of patient data by  
28 the commission and regional community learning collaboratives  
29 that maintain the confidentiality required by Federal and  
30 State law.

1 (5) Develop care protocols that assess the factors  
2 influencing the implementation of the components for chronic  
3 care.

4 (6) Assess and potentially incorporate existing efforts  
5 dealing with chronic care being performed by Commonwealth  
6 agencies.

7 (7) Develop and construct data measures that can be used  
8 by the commission to measure provider performance.

9 (8) Create evaluation processes and outcome measures to  
10 monitor implementation of the components for chronic care in  
11 different clinical settings.

12 Section 5. Composition of commission.

13 (a) Members.--The commission shall consist of the following  
14 members:

15 (1) Five members of the Governor's cabinet, or their  
16 respective designees, who shall serve ex officio and one of  
17 whom shall act as cochair, as selected by the Governor.

18 (2) Individuals from each of the following categories  
19 appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall act as cochair  
20 as selected by the Governor:

21 (i) a health insurer medical director;

22 (ii) a health insurance actuary;

23 (iii) a registered nurse, certified nurse  
24 practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, physician  
25 assistant or pharmacist that is currently practicing  
26 within this Commonwealth;

27 (iv) two primary care physicians who are members of  
28 the Pennsylvania Medical Society;

29 (v) a specialty care physician in active practice;

30 (vi) an individual with a background in chronic care

1 from an academic medical center;

2 (vii) a provider of home health care;

3 (viii) a health services researcher with expertise  
4 in chronic care;

5 (ix) an individual with a background in information  
6 technology and systems;

7 (x) a representative from an organization that  
8 represents individuals with chronic conditions;

9 (xi) a consumer with a chronic condition or multiple  
10 chronic conditions;

11 (xii) a consumer with a chronic condition or  
12 multiple chronic conditions who is at least 65 years of  
13 age;

14 (xiii) two individuals representing hospitals who  
15 are members of the Hospital and Health System Association  
16 of Pennsylvania; and

17 (xiv) any other individual who can assist the  
18 commission with the purposes under this act.

19 (b) Term and compensation.--The members chosen under  
20 subsection (a) shall each serve for a term of three years and  
21 continue to serve until their successor is appointed. Members  
22 shall serve without compensation except for payment of necessary  
23 and actual expenses incurred in attending meetings and in  
24 performing their duties and responsibilities as commission  
25 members.

26 (c) Staff.--The department shall provide staff and data  
27 support to the commission.

28 Section 6. Powers and duties of department.

29 The department shall have the following powers and duties:

30 (1) Assist the commission with outreach efforts to

1 educate consumer groups and the health care provider  
2 community in order to engage individuals to take necessary  
3 steps to prevent chronic diseases and to better self-manage  
4 their chronic conditions with the support of a health care  
5 team.

6 (2) Assist the commission in the development of a  
7 Statewide chronic care information system, including rules  
8 for secure information sharing, which permits the exchange of  
9 information among the regional community learning  
10 collaboratives and the department.

11 (3) Establish registries that collect clinical data on  
12 patients with chronic conditions and the methods for  
13 disseminating this information for use by providers.

14 (4) On or before December 31, 2010, and for each year  
15 thereafter, provide a report to the General Assembly that  
16 includes:

17 (i) the number of individuals with chronic  
18 conditions for the previous year in which information is  
19 available;

20 (ii) a list of each regional community learning  
21 collaborative and the number of providers that  
22 participate in each collaborative;

23 (iii) support information for patients with chronic  
24 conditions;

25 (iv) information for providers on treatment options  
26 based on best evidence that was reviewed by the  
27 commission and the department in the past year; and

28 (v) any other information the commission or the  
29 department deems necessary to assist the public in  
30 understanding how to reduce the number of chronic

1 conditions in this Commonwealth.

2 Section 7. Effective date.

3 This act shall take effect immediately.