

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1444 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, INNAMORATO, ISAACSON, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, SANCHEZ, A. DAVIS, GALLOWAY, BRADFORD, ROZZI, McNEILL, McCLINTON, DELLOSO, HANBIDGE, SCHWEYER, HERRIN, KINKEAD, DALEY, HOHENSTEIN, T. DAVIS, FITZGERALD, CEPHAS, STURLA, HOWARD AND SHUSTERMAN, MAY 20, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 20, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112),
 2 entitled "An act relating to the right to practice medicine
 3 and surgery and the right to practice medically related acts;
 4 reestablishing the State Board of Medical Education and
 5 Licensure as the State Board of Medicine and providing for
 6 its composition, powers and duties; providing for the
 7 issuance of licenses and certificates and the suspension and
 8 revocation of licenses and certificates; providing penalties;
 9 and making repeals," further providing for definitions; and
 10 providing for certain governmental prohibitions.

11 It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect the
 12 health of patients under the care of a licensed health care
 13 practitioner by ensuring that the practitioner is able to
 14 communicate freely with patients and exercise his or her medical
 15 judgment, in order to provide the safest and most beneficial
 16 medical treatment to the individual patient.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. Section 2 of the act of December 20, 1985
 20 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, is

1 amended by adding definitions to read:

2 Section 2. Definitions.

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

6 * * *

7 "Evidence-based." The use of current best evidence in making
8 decisions about the care of an individual patient and
9 integrating individual clinical expertise with the best
10 available external clinical evidence from systematic research.

11 * * *

12 "Medically accurate." In relation to information,
13 information that is:

14 (1) verified or supported by the weight of peer-reviewed
15 medical research conducted in compliance with accepted
16 scientific methods;

17 (2) recognized as correct and objective by leading
18 medical organizations with relevant expertise; or

19 (3) recommended by or affirmed in the medical practice
20 guidelines of a nationally recognized accrediting
21 organization.

22 "Medically appropriate." Consistent with applicable legal,
23 health and professional standards; the patient's clinical and
24 other circumstances; and the patient's reasonably known wishes
25 and beliefs.

26 * * *

27 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:
28 Section 14.1. Governmental prohibition.

29 Neither the Commonwealth nor any political subdivision may:

30 (1) Require a licensed health care practitioner to

1 provide a patient with:

2 (i) information that is not medically accurate and
3 medically appropriate for the patient; or

4 (ii) a medical service in a manner that is not
5 evidence-based and appropriate for the patient.

6 (2) Prohibit a licensed health care practitioner from
7 providing a patient with:

8 (i) information that is medically accurate and
9 medically appropriate for the patient; or

10 (ii) a medical service in a manner that is evidence-
11 based and appropriate for the patient.

12 Section 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to alter
13 existing professional standards of care nor abrogate the duty of
14 a licensed health care practitioner to meet the applicable
15 standard of care.

16 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 30 days.