

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1264 (As amended by A00861)

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE

Printer's No. 1342

1 Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 42 and 43

2 (A00861)

3 Section 3.1. COVID-19 emergency testing capacity enhancement.

4 (a) Legislative findings.--The General Assembly finds and
5 declares as follows:

6 (1) The ability of the Commonwealth to administer and
7 process COVID-19 tests is crucial to the Commonwealth's
8 response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

9 (2) The Commonwealth operates a State laboratory in
10 Exton as authorized under section 8(d) of the act of April
11 27, 1905 (P.L.312, No.218), entitled "An act creating a
12 Department of Health, and defining its powers and duties."

13 (3) Department of Health personnel have stated that the
14 State laboratory is a limiting factor in the Commonwealth's
15 response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

16 (4) The Department of Health is purchasing additional
17 high throughput instruments to increase COVID-19 testing
18 capacity, but due to the limited available space at the State
19 laboratory in Exton, the Commonwealth needs additional space
20 or facilities to increase COVID-19 testing capacity.

21 (5) The Commonwealth must immediately address
22 limitations present in the Commonwealth's ability to process
23 COVID-19 test results.

24 (b) Emergency processing capacity.--Within 30 days of the
25 effective date of this section, the Secretary of Health shall
26 issue an invitation for bids or a request for proposals or may
27 use the emergency procurement process under 62 Pa.C.S. § 516
28 (relating to emergency procurement) to increase the processing
29 capacity for COVID-19 tests in this Commonwealth.

30 (c) Nonemergency processing capacity.--Within one year of
31 the effective date of this section, the Secretary of Health
32 shall issue a report on the anticipated future needs of this
33 Commonwealth for testing facilities, laboratories and any other
34 facilities necessary to respond to a future infectious disease
35 pandemic to all of the following:

36 (1) The Governor.

37 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate.

38 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1 (d) Reporting.--The Secretary of Health shall include
2 regular updates regarding the implementation and reporting under
3 this section in the report required under section 2102-D(b) of
4 the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The
5 Administrative Code of 1929.