THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 633 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, SNYDER, O'MARA, A. DAVIS, PISCIOTTANO, KINKEAD, ZABEL, KULIK, BENHAM, MATZIE, HOHENSTEIN, HILLEVANS, LONGIETTI, MARKOSEK, HANBIDGE, BURGOS, KIRKLAND, FREEMAN, KRAJEWSKI, SHUSTERMAN, INNAMORATO, ISAACSON, MALAGARI, SAINATO, BRIGGS, GUZMAN, KENYATTA, DRISCOLL, WARREN, SANchez, DEASY, BURNS, BERNSTINE, STURLA, HOWARD, T. DAVIS, KIM, LEE, PARKER, ROZZI, D. MILLER, WEBSTER, GAINey, NEILSON, MERSKI, KRUEGER, STEPHENS, SIMs, MADDEN AND McNEILL, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

AN ACT

Providing for COVID-19 Vaccine Registry and for regulations by Department of Health.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the COVID-19 Vaccine Registry Act.

Section 2. Declaration of policy.

The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

(1) The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and end the pandemic is to vaccinate as many residents of this Commonwealth as quickly as possible.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly to support the vaccination process by creating a Statewide vaccination
registry which:

(i) Permits residents of this Commonwealth to register to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

(ii) Permits a family to register at the same time and notes any risk conditions, classification memberships and willingness to travel.

(iii) Allows COVID-19 vaccine providers access to the registry to prioritize outreach to eligible participants as vaccines become available.

(iv) Limits the frustration residents of this Commonwealth are feeling when trying to access vaccine appointments.

Section 3. Definitions.

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

"COVID-19." The novel coronavirus as identified in the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

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

"Provider." A person or entity authorized to distribute a COVID-19 vaccine to a registrant.

"Registrant." An individual or a family member of the individual registering for access to a COVID-19 vaccine in the registry.

"Registry." The COVID-19 Vaccine Registry established under section 4.

Section 4. COVID-19 vaccine registry.

(a) Establishment.—The department shall establish and
maintain a COVID-19 vaccine registry of registrants willing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as a vaccine becomes available. The registry shall:

(1) Permit the self-registration of individuals willing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

(2) Allow registration of multiple family members by a single registrant.

(3) Permit a registrant to note complicating medical conditions and risk categories and submit documentation of those conditions or categories.

(4) Allow a registrant to note how far the registrant is willing to travel to access a COVID-19 vaccine.

(5) Permit a provider to sort by zip code, medical condition, travel parameters, risk category and any other category as determined by the department.

(6) Contain a feature that regularly contacts registrants and asks registrants to note whether or not they have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

(7) Include a method to permit a registrant to be removed from the registry by the registrant upon receiving a vaccination.

(8) Require providers to report back to the registry which registrants have received a COVID-19 vaccine to permit the removal of those participants from the registry.

(b) Availability of registry.--The department shall create a process whereby a provider may request access to the registry. Except as otherwise provided, the department shall require that any provider accessing the registry may only use the data obtained for the purpose of outreach to provide a COVID-19 vaccine. Nothing in this act shall prevent a provider from
maintaining any registrant data as necessary and consented by the registrant to procure a COVID-19 vaccine or follow-up care related to a COVID-19 vaccine.

(c) Use of registry.--A provider may access the registry for the following purposes:

(1) To generate a list of registrants to contact as COVID-19 vaccines become available.

(2) To access data to prioritize risk categories.

(3) To fill an empty COVID-19 appointment.

(d) Report of vaccine receipt.--A provider who has used data from the registry shall report to the registry which registrants have received the vaccine.

(e) Limitations on vaccine distribution.--A provider that seeks to provide vaccines shall register under subsection (f).

(f) Provider registration.--In order to register as a provider under this act, a provider shall:

(1) Affirm in a form and manner determined by the department that the provider will provide priority access to vaccine appointments to registrants who have been registered.

(2) Prior to opening an appointment for vaccination, access the registry for an updated list of registrants who are qualified and willing to access the vaccine.

(3) Provide the following information:

(i) Projected availability of COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

(ii) The process on how to register for appointments or contact the registrant directly to schedule the appointment.

Section 5. Temporary regulations.

(a) Promulgation.--The department shall promulgate temporary
regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this act
which shall not be subject to:

(1) Sections 201, 202, 203, 204 and 205 of the act of
July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the
Commonwealth Documents Law.

(2) Sections 204(b) and 301(10) of the act of October
15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth
Attorneys Act.

(3) The act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as
the Regulatory Review Act.

(b) Expiration.--The department's authority to adopt
temporary regulations under subsection (a) shall expire two
years after the effective date of this section. Regulations
adopted after this period shall be promulgated as provided by
law.

(c) Publication.--The department shall publish initial
temporary regulations no later than 30 days after the effective
date of this section.

Section 6. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.