
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2266 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY BUXTON, ITKIN, YOUNGBLOOD, WALKO, MARKOSEK, FAJT,
HENNESSEY, MCGEEHAN, LEDERER, RUDY, READSHAW, STABACK,
SHANER, PISTELLA, VAN HORNE, DALEY, SERAFINI, PETTIT,
STEELMAN, MELIO, STURLA, THOMAS, WASHINGTON, BELFANTI,
SAINATO, BROWNE, TRELLO AND RAMOS, DECEMBER 12, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DECEMBER 12, 1995

AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment of a Statewide program to match
2 community volunteers with mental health care recipients and
3 for powers and duties of the Secretary of Public Welfare; and
4 making an appropriation.

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 Statewide
9 Compeer Act.

10 Section 2. Establishment of Compeer program.

11 The Secretary of Public Welfare shall:

12 (1) Establish a mental health program, to be known as
13 Compeer, to match a community volunteer with a person who has
14 a mental illness for the purpose of providing a meaningful
15 friendship.

16 (2) In conjunction with each county or adjoining
17 counties, establish a Compeer program through the Office of

1 Mental Health within the Department of Public Welfare. Each
2 program shall provide a report to the Secretary of Public
3 Welfare on a yearly basis.

4 (3) Appoint a coordinator of the Compeer program within
5 the Department of Public Welfare.

6 (4) Promulgate rules and regulations to establish the
7 Compeer program in each county or adjoining counties.

8 (5) Disburse \$1,500 per year to each county
9 participating in the Compeer program for use in administering
10 the program.

11 Section 3. Powers and duties of Statewide Compeer Director.

12 The Secretary of Public Welfare shall appoint a person to a
13 position known as Statewide Compeer Director. The powers and
14 duties of the Statewide Compeer Director are as follows:

15 (1) To create a mandated program for each county or
16 adjoining counties in this Commonwealth.

17 (2) To designate a county coordinator for each county
18 Compeer program.

19 (3) To organize yearly Statewide meetings of
20 representatives from all the county Compeer programs for the
21 purpose of sharing information.

22 (4) To work with national Compeer organizations in
23 developing the Compeer program.

24 (5) To work at the State level with fundraising and
25 advertising for the Compeer program.

26 Section 4. Appropriation.

27 The sum of \$100,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
28 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Public Welfare for
29 the fiscal year July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1996, to carry out the
30 provisions of this act.

1 Section 5. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect in 60 days.