AN ACT

Amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), entitled "An act relating to health care; prescribing the powers and duties of the Department of Health; establishing and providing the powers and duties of the State Health Coordinating Council, health systems agencies and Health Care Policy Board in the Department of Health, and State Health Facility Hearing Board in the Department of Justice; providing for certification of need of health care providers and prescribing penalties," in powers and duties of the department, providing for response to COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Section 1. The act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act, is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 203. Response to COVID-19 pandemic.

(a) Inspections.--The department shall inspect each long-term care nursing facility in this Commonwealth to determine and assess the long-term care nursing facility's control and mitigation procedures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
(b) Testing.--The department shall provide and conduct testing for all staff and residents at each long-term care nursing facility in this Commonwealth as part of the long-term care nursing facility's control and mitigation procedures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

(c) Collection and dissemination of information.--The department shall record and post on the department's publicly accessible Internet website, on a daily basis, the findings and assessments made under this section.

(d) Personnel and resources.--The department shall provide adequate personnel and resources to mitigate an outbreak resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

(e) Definitions.--The following words and phrases when used in this section shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection 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.

"Long-term care nursing facility." As defined in section 802.1.

"Outbreak." Three or more consecutive days of increasing cases involving COVID-19 among staff or residents of a long-term care nursing facility.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.