
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 414 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, STREET, HAYWOOD, LANGERHOLC, COLLETT,
MARTIN, KANE, DILLON, COSTA, CAPPELLETTI, J. WARD,
TARTAGLIONE, STEFANO AND SAVAL, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

AN ACT

1 Providing for access to treatment for sexual assault survivors
2 and for duties of the Department of Health.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Sexual
7 Assault Emergency Services Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "County." A county of any class in this Commonwealth.

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

14 "Hospital." As defined in section 802.1 of the act of July
15 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities
16 Act.

17 "Registered nurse." A registered nurse, clinical nurse

1 specialist or certified registered nurse practitioner under the
2 act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), known as The Professional
3 Nursing Law.

4 "SANE program." A program that utilizes a sexual assault
5 nurse examiner for a forensic medical examination based in this
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Sexual assault." Any of the offenses specified in 18
8 Pa.C.S. Ch. 31 Subch. B (relating to definition of offenses).

9 "Sexual assault nurse examiner" or "SANE." A registered
10 nurse who completed additional education and training that meets
11 the most recent edition of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
12 Education Guidelines established by the International
13 Association of Forensic Nurses in effect on the effective date
14 of this section to provide comprehensive health care to
15 survivors of sexual assault.

16 "Sexual assault survivor." An individual who reports that
17 they have experienced sexual assault.

18 Section 3. SANE program for access to treatment for sexual
19 assault survivors.

20 In addition to the sexual assault emergency services required
21 under 28 Pa. Code § 117.52 (relating to minimum requirements for
22 sexual assault emergency services), a hospital may establish a
23 SANE program.

24 Section 4. Duties of department.

25 (a) List of SANE capabilities.--

26 (1) No later than 180 days after the effective date of
27 this section and updated on an annual basis, the department
28 shall publish a comprehensive list of each hospital, by
29 county, that provides SANE care on the department's publicly
30 accessible Internet website. The list shall include the

1 location and phone number for each hospital listed and when
2 applicable, the hospital's publicly accessible Internet
3 website.

4 (2) A hospital shall notify the department of changes to
5 the hospital's SANE capabilities within seven days of the
6 change. The department shall update the publicly accessible
7 Internet website to reflect a change by a hospital within
8 seven days of receipt from a hospital.

9 (b) Browsing history.--The department shall develop a
10 feature on the department's publicly accessible Internet website
11 that simultaneously deletes the user's Internet browsing history
12 and redirects the user to the web browser's home page. This
13 feature shall be a button affixed to the top-right of the web
14 browser and shall be added to each publicly accessible Internet
15 website pertaining to information or services for sexual assault
16 or domestic violence survivors.

17 (c) Funding.--The department shall make grant funding
18 available if sufficient funds have been appropriated for the
19 purpose of establishing and supporting infrastructure to
20 facilitate the delivery of sexual assault nurse examiner
21 services.

22 Section 5. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect immediately.