

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 917 Session of
1989

INTRODUCED BY ROCKS, JUBELIRER, WILLIAMS, SALVATORE, HELFRICK,
JONES AND ANDREZESKI, MAY 9, 1989

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, MAY 9, 1989

AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment and operation of regional poison
2 control centers throughout this Commonwealth; imposing powers
3 and duties on the Department of Health; and making an
4 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 Regional
9 Poison Control Centers Act.

10 Section 2. Legislative findings and policy.

11 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

12 (1) Poison control activities are important in terms of
13 reducing the number of accidental poisonings, providing
14 immediate medical attention when needed and lowering health
15 care costs.

16 (2) Poisonings are the most common nontraumatic
17 pediatric emergency and also among one of the most common
18 causes of accidental deaths.

1 (3) Poison prevention and treatment programs can be
2 successful in reducing accidental poisonings, promoting child
3 safety practices, improving public education, lowering
4 treatment costs and saving lives.

5 (4) It is the policy of the Commonwealth to promote the
6 establishment of a regional poison control network to direct,
7 coordinate and provide Statewide poison control services in
8 an effort to reduce accidental poisonings and to provide
9 expenditures for such purposes.

10 Section 3. Definitions.

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

14 "Certified regional poison control center." An established
15 regional poison control center which is certified by the
16 department to be in compliance with all the standards for
17 regional poison control centers promulgated by the department.

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

19 Section 4. Regional poison control centers.

20 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish,
21 implement and administer a program for a Statewide network of
22 regional poison control centers which will provide efficient and
23 effective services to all areas of this Commonwealth. The
24 department shall examine and designate existing regional poison
25 control centers prior to the establishment of a new regional
26 poison control center.

27 (b) Review.--Every three years the department shall
28 reexamine every designated regional poison control center.

29 Section 5. Powers and duties of department.

30 (a) General rule.--The department has the following powers

1 and duties relating to the establishment and operation of
2 regional poison control facilities:

3 (1) To provide services, which may include:

4 (i) Dissemination of expert information and
5 consultation services to professional personnel on the
6 diagnosis, treatment and management of suspected or
7 actual poisonings.

8 (ii) Dissemination of information, emergency first
9 aid and referral services to the general public.

10 (iii) Coordination, assurance and monitoring of
11 poison prevention and medical management programs for the
12 professional community and the general public in the
13 region it serves.

14 (iv) Collection of uniform data and research
15 activity to enhance poison control management.

16 (2) To set staffing requirements, including the number,
17 qualifications and training of personnel.

18 (3) To set operational requirements, including
19 availability of and access to services and informational
20 resources, public and professional education and protocols.

21 (4) To develop comprehensive treatment capabilities and
22 a categorized system of treatment facilities for the region.

23 (5) To establish a health professional outreach program.

24 (6) To establish a regional data collection system,
25 including a method of insuring the confidentiality of data
26 required by law.

27 (7) To make grants to certified regional poison control
28 centers in amounts equal to 12¢ for each individual residing
29 in the area served by the certified regional poison control
30 center.

1 (8) To promulgate regulations for the establishment,
2 implementation and administration of regional poison control
3 centers.

4 (b) Existing standards.--The standards used by the
5 department for certification of regional poison control centers
6 shall, as a minimum, comply with the standards promulgated by
7 the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

8 Section 6. Annual report.

9 The department shall make an annual report to the General
10 Assembly of its findings and recommendations concerning the
11 effectiveness, impact and benefits derived from the programs as
12 established under this act. The report shall be submitted by
13 February 1 and shall contain evaluations of the programs.

14 Section 7. Appropriation.

15 The sum of \$1,500,000, or as much thereof as may be
16 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Department of Health
17 for fiscal year July 1, 1989, to June 30, 1990.

18 Section 8. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect in 60 days.