

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 858 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, COHEN, KORTZ, KOTIK, FRANKEL, DAVIDSON, BROWNLEE, DONATUCCI, PASHINSKI, LONGIETTI, V. BROWN, HARKINS, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLOSSBERG, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, ROZZI, DEASY, MURT AND McCARTER, APRIL 6, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 6, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), entitled "An
 2 act relating to health care; prescribing the powers and
 3 duties of the Department of Health; establishing and
 4 providing the powers and duties of the State Health
 5 Coordinating Council, health systems agencies and Health Care
 6 Policy Board in the Department of Health, and State Health
 7 Facility Hearing Board in the Department of Justice;
 8 providing for certification of need of health care providers
 9 and prescribing penalties," in general provisions, providing
 10 for acute mental health bed registry and referrals.

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

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

16 Section 901.1. Acute mental health bed registry and referrals.

17 (a) The department shall develop and maintain a web-based
 18 acute mental health bed registry and make access available to
 19 any health care professional.

20 (b) The registry shall be designed to collect, aggregate and
 21 display real-time information about available acute mental

1 health beds at each mental health facility to allow a health
2 care professional to:

3 (1) Identify and select an acute mental health bed for
4 an individual in need of inpatient examination and treatment.

5 (2) Locate the most appropriate mental health facility
6 to accommodate the specific needs of the individual.

7 (3) Determine where an individual in need of mental
8 health treatment will be served in the best manner and least
9 restrictive setting possible.

10 (c) The registry shall include all of the following:

11 (1) Descriptive information for each mental health
12 facility, including contact information.

13 (2) Real-time information about all of the following:

14 (i) The number of acute mental health beds available
15 at each mental health facility.

16 (ii) A comprehensive list of the types of treatment
17 and services available at each mental health facility.

18 (iii) The level of security provided at each mental
19 health facility.

20 (iv) Any other information that may be necessary to
21 allow a health care professional to identify and
22 designate an acute mental health bed for an individual in
23 need of inpatient examination and treatment.

24 (d) A mental health facility shall designate one or more
25 persons to perform the following duties:

26 (1) Submit the information under subsection (c) to the
27 department for inclusion in the registry.

28 (2) Update the real-time information under subsection
29 (c) (2).

30 (3) Serve as a point of contact for addressing requests

1 for information under subsection (c).

2 (e) The department may contract with a third party to
3 administer the registry.

4 (f) The department shall promulgate regulations necessary to
5 implement this section.

6 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
7 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

8 "Health care professional." Any health care practitioner,
9 administrator, administrative staff member or licensed social
10 worker who works in an emergency health care setting.

11 "Inpatient examination and treatment." Includes examination
12 and treatment that requires full-time or part-time voluntary or
13 involuntary commitment in a mental health facility as described
14 under Articles II and III of the act of July 9, 1976 (P.L.817,
15 No.143), known as the Mental Health Procedures Act.

16 "Mental health facility." Any licensed health care facility
17 in this Commonwealth that provides examination and treatment to
18 an individual in need of inpatient or outpatient behavioral
19 health treatment and services.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 180 days.