

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1785 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CORBIN, SCHLOSSBERG, BAKER, LEWIS, HENNESSEY,
KILLION, READSHAW, BOBACK, DRISCOLL, MAHONEY, DUSH, SONNEY,
YOUNGBLOOD, O'BRIEN, MAJOR, WARD, FEE, COHEN, MILNE,
ZIMMERMAN AND SCHWEYER, JANUARY 13, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 13, 2016

AN ACT

1 Requiring the preparation and publication of information
2 relating to the influenza vaccine for individuals residing in
3 assisted living residences and personal care homes; and
4 imposing duties on the Department of Health and the
5 Department of Human Services.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Influenza
10 Awareness Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

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

15 "Facility." Any of the following:

16 (1) An "assisted living residence" as defined under
17 section 1001 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21),
18 known as the Public Welfare Code.

1 (2) A "personal care home" as defined under section 1001
2 of the Public Welfare Code.

3 Section 3. Informational publications by Department of Health.

4 The Department of Health shall, on the department's publicly
5 accessible Internet website, make available to facilities
6 printable publications that include information relating to the
7 influenza vaccine for individuals residing in facilities. The
8 information shall include:

9 (1) How vaccination can help prevent influenza.

10 (2) The availability and efficacy of the influenza
11 vaccine.

12 (3) A recommendation that individuals consult with their
13 health care practitioners about the influenza vaccine.

14 (4) Individual and community benefits of vaccination.

15 Section 4. Dissemination of information by facilities.

16 Each facility shall:

17 (1) Ensure that the required influenza information is
18 posted in a public place in the facility by August 1 of each
19 year.

20 (2) Annually provide the required influenza information
21 to each resident of the facility at an appropriate time and
22 without cost to the resident.

23 Section 5. Inspection.

24 The Department of Human Services, when carrying out its duty
25 to inspect facilities, shall determine compliance with this act.

26 Section 6. Construction.

27 Nothing in this act shall be construed to require a resident
28 of a facility to receive influenza vaccination.

29 Section 7. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect in 60 days.