
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2510 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY TURZAI, READSHAW, KORTZ, KAIL, BARRAR, BOBACK,
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RYAN, SAYLOR, SCHMITT, STAATS, THOMAS, WARNER, ZIMMERMAN,
SIMMONS AND STRUZZI, MAY 12, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, MAY 12, 2020

AN ACT

1 Providing for regional response health collaborations to promote
2 health in facilities by supporting COVID-19 readiness and
3 response and improving the quality of infection prevention.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Regional
8 Response Health Collaborative Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Assisted living residence." As defined in section 1001 of
14 the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human
15 Services Code.

16 "Authority." The Commonwealth Financing Authority.

1 "COVID-19." The novel coronavirus as identified in the
2 Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on March 6,
3 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020).

4 "Emergency medical services agency." As defined in 35
5 Pa.C.S. § 8103 (relating to definitions).

6 "Facility." Any of the following:

7 (1) An assisted living residence.

8 (2) A long-term care nursing facility.

9 (3) A personal care home.

10 "Federal funds." Funds received from the Federal Government
11 to fight COVID-19 under the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
12 Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136, 134 Stat. 281).

13 "Health collaborative." A collaboration of a local health
14 care system that provides educational support and clinical
15 coaching in a specific region of this Commonwealth.

16 "Long-term care nursing facility." As defined in section
17 802.1 of the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the
18 Health Care Facilities Act.

19 "Personal care home." As defined in section 1001 of the
20 Human Services Code.

21 "Region." The following areas of this Commonwealth:

22 (1) Northeast.

23 (2) Southeast.

24 (3) North central.

25 (4) South central.

26 (5) Northwest.

27 (6) Southwest.

28 Section 3. Regional response health collaborative.

29 (a) Division.--The authority shall divide this Commonwealth
30 into regions and shall delineate all of the facilities within

1 the parameters of a region.

2 (b) Proposals.--The authority shall solicit proposals from
3 health collaboratives to provide operations, management and
4 administration of the purposes provided under subsection (e) in
5 each region to protect residents in facilities from COVID-19.

6 (c) Contract.--The authority shall contract with at least
7 one health collaborative in each region for the purposes
8 provided under subsection (e).

9 (d) Appropriation.--The amount of \$500,000,000 of the
10 Federal funds is appropriated to the authority for the purposes
11 of this act. The authority shall distribute the funds to each
12 health collaborative contracted under subsection (c).

13 (e) Purpose.--Each health care collaborative shall:

14 (1) Promote health and stabilize the economy of the
15 region by directly supporting COVID-19 readiness and response
16 in facilities.

17 (2) Improve the quality of care related to infection
18 prevention and other priority health care conditions common
19 to facilities.

20 (3) Expand COVID-19 testing to include asymptomatic
21 staff and residents in facilities to expand public health
22 surveillance.

23 Section 4. Duties.

24 (a) Review.--Each health collaborative shall perform daily
25 strategic review of facilities in their region.

26 (b) Plan.--Through collaborative review of the clinical
27 situation within facilities identified as having unmet needs, a
28 health collaborative shall formulate an action plan tailored to
29 the facility, identifying specific resources or tactical actions
30 to implement to assist facilities.

1 (c) Components.--A health collaborative shall provide for
2 the following as provided under section 5:

3 (1) Enhanced testing capability.

4 (2) Infection control consultation and implementation,
5 including contact tracing.

6 (3) Advanced clinical care, including remote monitoring
7 and physician consultation.

8 (d) Funds.--A health collaborative shall:

9 (1) budget for and distribute funds provided by the
10 authority; and

11 (2) track and record the expense associated with each
12 type of testing and with implementing infection control
13 consultation across the region.

14 Section 5. Components.

15 (a) Enhanced testing.--

16 (1) If a facility experiences a positive test of COVID-
17 19, testing of facility residents and health care workers
18 shall be conducted. Onsite testing shall be made available
19 through mobile testing teams developed by the health
20 collaborative. The health collaborative shall coordinate the
21 testing response with participation from local emergency
22 medical services agencies and regional testing laboratories
23 to prioritize receipt of test results.

24 (2) A health collaborative shall deploy systematic
25 surveillance testing on a weekly basis using a random
26 sampling of not more than five asymptomatic residents in a
27 facility. Results of the testing shall be shared with all
28 stakeholders and the Commonwealth.

29 (b) Infection control and consultation.--A health
30 collaborative shall deploy clinical staff to perform onsite

1 observation and consultation as part of the mobile testing team.

2 The clinical staff shall:

3 (1) implement infection control practices, such as
4 cohorting, personal protective equipment use, case detection
5 and staffing practices; and

6 (2) facilitate completion of exposure tracing studies.

7 (c) Advanced clinical management assistance.--Clinical staff
8 shall provide onsite and telemedicine-supported clinical care
9 for a facility.

10 Section 6. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect immediately.