
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 340 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY KILLION, PHILLIPS-HILL, SCHWANK AND STEFANO,
FEBRUARY 26, 2019

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
FEBRUARY 26, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112),
2 entitled "An act relating to the right to practice medicine
3 and surgery and the right to practice medically related acts;
4 reestablishing the State Board of Medical Education and
5 Licensure as the State Board of Medicine and providing for
6 its composition, powers and duties; providing for the
7 issuance of licenses and certificates and the suspension and
8 revocation of licenses and certificates; provided penalties;
9 and making repeals," amending the title of the act; and
10 further providing for genetic counselor.

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

13 Section 1. The title of the act of December 20, 1985
14 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, is
15 amended to read:

16 AN ACT

17 Relating to the right to practice medicine and surgery and the
18 right to practice medically related acts; reestablishing the
19 State Board of Medical Education and Licensure as the State
20 Board of Medicine and providing for its composition, powers
21 and duties; providing for the issuance of licenses and

1 certificates and the suspension and revocation of licenses
2 and certificates; [~~provided~~] providing for penalties; and
3 making repeals.

4 Section 2. Section 13.4(c) of the act is amended to read:

5 Section 13.4. Genetic counselor.

6 * * *

7 (c) Scope of practice.--

8 (1) A genetic counselor may provide genetic counseling
9 to clients, which includes:

10 (i) Obtain and evaluate individual and family
11 medical histories to determine genetic risk for genetic
12 or medical conditions and diseases in a patient and other
13 family members.

14 (ii) Discuss the features, natural history, means of
15 diagnosis, genetic and environmental factors and
16 management of risk for the genetic or medical conditions
17 and diseases.

18 (iii) Identify, order and coordinate genetic
19 laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies as
20 appropriate for the genetic assessment.

21 (iv) Integrate the genetic laboratory test results
22 and other diagnostic studies with personal and family
23 medical history to assess and communicate risk factors
24 for genetic or medical conditions and diseases.

25 (v) Explain the clinical implications of genetic
26 laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies and their
27 results.

28 (vi) Evaluate the client's or family's responses to
29 the condition or risk of the recurrence and provide
30 client-centered counseling.

1 (vii) Identify and utilize community resources that
2 provide medical, educational, financial and psychosocial
3 support and advocacy.

4 (viii) Provide written documentation of medical,
5 genetic and counseling information for families and
6 health care professionals.

7 (2) When in the course of providing genetic counseling
8 services to a client, if a genetic counselor finds any
9 indication of a disease or condition that requires diagnosis
10 and treatment outside the scope of practice defined in this
11 section, the genetic counselor shall refer the client to a
12 licensed physician or appropriate health care practitioner.

13 (3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
14 authorize a genetic counselor to diagnose[, test] or treat
15 any genetic disease or condition or other disease or
16 condition.

17 * * *

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.