

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 666 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY YAW, MENSCH AND STEFANO, MAY 10, 2021

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 10, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled
 2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the
 3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the
 4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative
 5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,
 6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or
 7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or
 8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative
 9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and
 10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative
 11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,
 12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the
 13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive
 14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of
 15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and
 16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,
 17 and commissions; providing for the regulation of pari-mutuel
 18 thoroughbred horse racing and harness horse racing
 19 activities, imposing certain taxes and providing for the
 20 disposition of funds from pari-mutuel tickets; and
 21 prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation
 22 of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of
 23 certain departments, boards and commissions shall be
 24 determined," in powers and duties of Department of Health and
 25 its departmental administrative and advisory boards,
 26 providing for drug overdose death reporting.

27 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 28 hereby enacts as follows:

29 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known
 30 as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding a

1 section to read:

2 Section 2127. Drug Overdose Death Reporting.--(a) The
3 Department of Health shall collect and maintain information
4 submitted by county coroners and medical examiners under
5 subsection (b).

6 (b) Each coroner or medical examiner in this Commonwealth
7 shall report in writing to the Department of Health, within five
8 days of certification, the death of a person resulting from a
9 drug overdose, giving the time and place of the death and the
10 circumstances relating to the death. The reports shall be made
11 on forms prescribed by the department. Each coroner or medical
12 examiner shall retain a copy of the reports in the coroner's or
13 medical examiner's office for a period of two years.

14 (c) The Department of Health shall use the information
15 obtained under this section to:

16 (1) Communicate concerns to regulators and facilitate
17 communication within the health care system and legal system
18 about issues that could threaten health and public safety.

19 (2) Prepare aggregate statistics relating to deaths
20 resulting from drug overdoses and include the statistics in the
21 annual report required under section 4(9) of the act of October
22 24, 2012 (P.L.1198, No.148), known as the Methadone Death and
23 Incident Review Act.

24 (d) The Department of Health shall maintain the
25 confidentiality of identifying information obtained relating to
26 the death of an individual, including the name of the
27 individual, guardians, family members, caretakers or alleged or
28 suspected perpetrators of abuse, neglect or a criminal act.

29 (e) An individual who, in good faith, provides information
30 or records to the Department of Health under this section shall

1 not be subject to civil or criminal liability as a result of
2 providing the information or records.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.