
The bill adds Article XXI-C, COVID-19 Emergency Testing Plan and Reporting that requires the Governor to submit to designated members of the General Assembly the plan for COVID-19 testing, including any amendments, that was submitted to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to the federal Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

The Department of Health shall submit reports every 14 days to designated members of the General Assembly. House Bill 2455 requires the following COVID-19-related information to be included in the reports:

- The technology and supplies procured or acquired;
- The administrative and operating costs of a state laboratory;
- The number and type of completed tests by a state laboratory, including diagnostic and serology tests;
- The number of positive, false positive, negative and false negative test results from completed tests;
- A description of state laboratory testing limitations related to acquiring reagents or other components of the testing process; and
- Demographic test result data including age, sex, race and ethnicity.

This act shall take effect immediately and expires December 31, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 2455 will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth.

The Governor’s Office, in consultation with the Department of Health, will be able to meet the COVID-19 emergency testing plan and reporting requirements within existing staffing and budget levels. The resulting costs of the plan should be eligible for funding from the $11 billion allocated to states for COVID-19 testing in the federal Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. Pennsylvania is expected to receive an allocation of nearly $320 million of funding from this program. These funds were included in the Department of Health’s FY 2019-20 enacted budget.