

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL  
No. 1226 Session of  
1977

INTRODUCED BY DeWEESE, D. R. WRIGHT, FINEMAN, IRVIS, KELLY,  
COLE, COHEN, GOODMAN, C. GEORGE, MANDERINO, FEE, GALLAGHER,  
CALTAGIRONE, LETTERMAN, LAUDADIO, KOLTER, RENWICK, GIAMMARCO,  
GRIECO, SCANLON, WARGO, B. F. O'BRIEN, GATSKI,  
ZITTERMAN, GARZIA, ARTHURS, BERLIN, SHUPNIK, CIMINI, FRYER,  
YAHNER, VALICENTI, HARPER, CASSIDY, SWEET, RICHARDSON,  
LIVENGOD, STEWART, CAPUTO, RIEGER, GILLETTE, SCHMITT,  
TENAGLIO, PRATT, DeMEDIO AND KOWALYSHYN, JUNE 6, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 6, 1977

AN ACT

1 Creating the Pennsylvania Physician Education Council;  
2 establishing the powers and duties of such council; creating  
3 regional advisory boards to such council; regulating certain  
4 appropriations to medical schools and schools of osteopathy;  
5 and making an appropriation.

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 "Pennsylvania  
10 Physician Education Planning Act."

11 Section 2. Legislative findings.

12 The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is fortunate in the number  
13 and quality of medical schools located therein. However, there  
14 is no integrated system of education for physicians applicable  
15 to the entire State which would assure an appropriate Statewide  
16 distribution of physicians.

1       The lack of such an integrated system results in a loss to  
2 both the medical schools and the community at large. Medical  
3 schools are unable to utilize the various medical facilities and  
4 the talents of individuals located throughout the Commonwealth.  
5 Many segments of the general populace are without adequate  
6 health care while others who do have available health care  
7 cannot utilize the advanced knowledge obtainable at the medical  
8 schools. It is essential that an integrated Statewide education  
9 plan for physicians be developed to include the establishment of  
10 subsidized residency programs in community hospitals and other  
11 alternative settings in order to benefit both the medical  
12 schools and the community at large.

13   Section 3.   Pennsylvania Physician Education Council.

14       There is hereby created an independent council to be known as  
15 the Pennsylvania Physician Education Council which shall consist  
16 of the following persons: the Secretary of Health and the  
17 Secretary of Education, or their respective designees; the chief  
18 executive officers, or their designees, of the colleges or  
19 universities in Pennsylvania of which each accredited medical  
20 school or school of osteopathy is a part; two physicians  
21 licensed to practice in Pennsylvania who are professionally  
22 qualified in a field of primary care appointed by the Governor;  
23 one representative from a Pennsylvania teaching hospital  
24 appointed by the Governor from a list of at least three names  
25 submitted by the Council of Teaching Hospitals; two members of  
26 the House of Representatives, one from each political party,  
27 selected by the Speaker of the House; and two members of the  
28 Senate, one from each political party selected by the President  
29 pro tempore of the Senate. The council shall select a chairman  
30 from among its members. Members shall receive no compensation,

1 but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred. The  
2 Secretary of Health shall provide the necessary administrative  
3 personnel and services. A quorum shall consist of a majority of  
4 the total membership of the council and a majority vote of those  
5 present shall be sufficient in the resolution of any matter.

6 Section 4. Powers and duties of the council.

7 The council shall have the following powers and duties:

8 (1) Develop an integrated Statewide education plan for  
9 physicians which shall include the establishment of residency  
10 programs in community hospitals and alternative setting such  
11 as, but not limited to model or group practices and health  
12 maintenance organizations by the medical schools with the  
13 cooperation of the medical profession, hospitals, and clinics  
14 throughout the Commonwealth. The council shall submit the  
15 Statewide education plan for physicians to the Statewide  
16 health coordinating council established pursuant to Public  
17 Law 93-641 for approval and integration with the State health  
18 plan.

19 (2) Divide the Commonwealth into regions which shall be  
20 compatible but not necessarily coterminous with health  
21 service areas developed pursuant to Public Law 93-641.

22 (3) Give priority in the development of such an  
23 integrated plan to those areas of the Commonwealth which have  
24 been designated as medically deprived by the Secretary of  
25 Health.

26 (4) Cooperate with any agency or political subdivision  
27 of the Commonwealth or any other public or private agency in  
28 the development of such an integrated plan including the  
29 right to enter into contracts with such agencies and to  
30 receive monetary aid or grants.

1           (5) Cooperate with the office of the Governor or any  
2           designated agency in the establishment of a Statewide  
3           communication system which will enable the medical  
4           profession, hospitals, and clinics throughout the  
5           Commonwealth to have a direct tie line and instantaneous  
6           communication with computer banks and specialists at the  
7           medical schools and medical centers.

8           (6) Contract with such consultants as may be deemed  
9           necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

10          (7) Submit the proposed Statewide education plan for  
11          physicians to each regional advisory board for review and  
12          comment.

13          (8) Develop and implement incentive mechanisms designed  
14          to attract primary care physicians to medically underserved  
15          areas. This may include but need not be limited to income  
16          guarantee programs.

17 Section 5. Regional advisory boards.

18       In each region established by the council pursuant to section  
19 4(2), there is hereby created a Regional Advisory Board to the  
20 Pennsylvania Physician Education Council. Each such board shall  
21 consist of seven persons appointed by the health systems agency  
22 established pursuant to Public Law 93-641: Three of whom shall  
23 be involved with the delivery of health care; and four of whom  
24 shall not be involved with the delivery of health care and shall  
25 be consumer representatives. Members of the board shall serve  
26 for a five year term except those first appointed in which case;  
27 two shall be appointed for a three year term; two shall be  
28 appointed for a four year term and three shall be appointed for  
29 a five year term. Vacancies shall be made in the manner of the  
30 original appointments for the remainder of the unexpired term.

1 In those regions which may have more than one health systems  
2 agency, the composition of the advisory board shall be decided  
3 on a pro rata population basis for the regions involved. Members  
4 of each board shall select a chairman from among its members and  
5 a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. A majority  
6 vote of those present shall be sufficient in the resolution of  
7 any matter. The advisory boards shall meet at least twice during  
8 each year. Members shall receive no compensation but shall be  
9 reimbursed for actual expenses incurred.

10 The function of each board shall be to act in an advisory  
11 capacity to the council relative to the unique problems existing  
12 in the board's region and to review and advise the council on  
13 the Statewide education plan for physicians to enable the  
14 council to have the best available information in the  
15 performance of the council's duties.

16 Section 6. Termination of council.

17 The physician education council and its regional advisory  
18 boards shall cease to exist five years from the effective date  
19 of this act. However, council power to contract shall remain  
20 effective for three years following dissolution.

21 Section 7. Appropriation.

22 The sum of \$350,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,  
23 is hereby appropriated to the Pennsylvania Physician Education  
24 Council for the purposes of this act. Every year thereafter, the  
25 General Assembly shall appropriate that amount of funds as it  
26 deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

27 Section 8. Effective date.

28 This act shall take effect immediately.