

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 991

Session of  
1983

INTRODUCED BY FREIND, ARTY, TRELLO, SWEET, KUKOVICH, REBER,  
MILLER, MICOZZIE, GALLAGHER, NOYE, BELARDI, JOHNSON, McVERRY,  
PRATT, CLYMER, PETERSON, FISCHER AND E. Z. TAYLOR, MAY 11,  
1983

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 11, 1983

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 22, 1953 (P.L.1344, No.383), entitled  
2 "An act relating to marriage; and amending, revising,  
3 consolidating and changing the law relating thereto,"  
4 providing for an immunity test for rubella.

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

7 Section 1. Section 5 of the act of August 22, 1953  
8 (P.L.1344, No.383), known as The Marriage Law, is amended by  
9 adding a clause to read:

10 Section 5. Restrictions on the Issue of Marriage License.--  
11 No license to marry shall be issued by any clerk of the orphans'  
12 court:

13 \* \* \*

14 (a.1) (1) Until the female applicant, if of childbearing  
15 age, has been advised as to the dangers of rubella (German  
16 measles) and has been notified of the appropriate examination as  
17 determined by the Department of Health.

18 (2) The Department of Health shall provide the clerk of the

1 orphans' court with cards which will properly advise the  
2 applicant pursuant to subclause (1).

3 (3) The cards shall contain the following information:

4 (i) Notice that it has been clearly determined that a woman  
5 who contracts rubella while pregnant stands a significantly  
6 increased chance of giving birth to a child affected by a birth  
7 defect.

8 (ii) Her physician may administer rubella immunization.  
9 Medical evidence has indicated that this immunization is  
10 effective.

11 (iii) Because of medical evidence, it is strongly  
12 recommended that a woman should refrain from becoming pregnant  
13 for at least three (3) months from the date of said  
14 immunization. A woman should not be immunized while she is  
15 pregnant or possibly pregnant.

16 (iv) Such other information as the Department of Health  
17 deems advisable.

18 \* \* \*

19 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

20 Section 22.1. Duties of Department of Health.--The  
21 Department of Health shall be required to highlight the problems  
22 caused by rubella in its public education programs.

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