

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 749 Session of
1989

INTRODUCED BY RYBAK, COWELL, RUDY, MORRIS, YANDRISEVITS,
HALUSKA, MELIO, ADOLPH, HECKLER, NAHILL, CAPPABIANCA,
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DALEY, E. Z. TAYLOR, REBER, FREEMAN, MICHLOVIC, CIVERA,
BISHOP, McVERRY, ITKIN, WOGAN, PETRARCA, JAMES AND J. H.
CLARK, MARCH 14, 1989

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 17, 1989

AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment and operation of poison control
2 centers throughout this Commonwealth; ESTABLISHING A LEAD <—
3 POISONING PROGRAM; imposing powers and duties on the
4 Department of Health; and making an appropriation.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
9 Poison Control Centers Act.

10 Section 2. Legislative findings and policy.

11 (a) Findings.--The General Assembly finds as follows:

12 (1) Poison control activities are important in terms of
13 reducing the number of accidental poisonings, providing
14 immediate medical attention when needed and lowering health
15 care costs.

1 (2) Poisonings are the most common nontraumatic
2 pediatric emergency and also among one of the most common
3 causes of accidental deaths.

4 (3) Poison prevention and treatment programs can be
5 successful in reducing accidental poisonings, promoting child
6 safety practices, improving public education, lowering
7 treatment costs and saving lives.

8 (b) Policy.--The General Assembly therefore declares that it
9 is the policy of this Commonwealth to promote the establishment
10 of a poison control network to direct, coordinate and provide
11 poison control services Statewide in an effort to reduce
12 accidental poisonings and to provide expenditures for such
13 purposes.

14 Section 3. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
16 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

19 "Satellite regional poison control center." An established
20 regional poison control center which services a recognized
21 service area contiguous to or in affiliation with a certified
22 regional poison control center.

23 Section 4. Satellite regional poison control centers.

24 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish,
25 implement and administer a program for a Statewide network of
26 satellite regional poison control centers which will provide
27 efficient and effective services to all areas of this
28 Commonwealth. The department shall examine and designate any
29 existing poison control center as a satellite regional poison
30 control center prior to the establishment of any new satellite

1 regional poison control center.

2 (b) Review.--Every three years the department shall
3 reexamine every designated satellite regional poison control
4 center.

5 Section 5. Powers and duties of department.

6 The department shall have the following powers and duties
7 relating to the establishment and operation of satellite
8 regional poison control facilities:

9 (1) Services to be provided which may include:

10 (i) Dissemination of expert information and
11 consultation services to professional personnel on the
12 diagnosis, treatment and management of any suspected or
13 actual poisonings.

14 (ii) Dissemination of information, emergency first
15 aid and referral services to the general public.

16 (iii) Coordination, assurance and monitoring of
17 poison prevention and medical management programs for the
18 professional community and the general public in the
19 region it serves.

20 (iv) Collection of uniform data and research
21 activity to enhance poison control management.

22 (2) Staffing requirements, including the number,
23 qualifications and training of personnel.

24 (3) Operational requirements, including availability of
25 and access to services and informational resources, public
26 and professional education and protocols.

27 (4) Comprehensive treatment capabilities and a
28 categorized system of treatment facilities for the region.

29 (5) Health professional outreach program.

30 (6) Regional data collection system including a method

1 of insuring the confidentiality of such data as is otherwise
2 required by law.

3 (7) Rules and regulations for the establishment,
4 implementation and administration of satellite regional
5 poison control centers.

6 SECTION 6. LEAD POISONING PROGRAM. <—

7 (A) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.--THE SECRETARY SHALL ALSO ESTABLISH
8 A STATEWIDE LEAD POISONING PROGRAM, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT
9 BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

10 (1) THE IDENTIFICATION OF GEOGRAPHIC AREAS IN THIS
11 COMMONWEALTH IN WHICH THE RESIDENTS ARE AT A SUBSTANTIAL RISK
12 OF LEAD POISONING.

13 (2) THE PERIODIC SCREENING FOR LEAD POISONING OF
14 CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER WHO RESIDE IN THOSE
15 AREAS IDENTIFIED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (1).

16 (3) THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND DIAGNOSIS OF PERSONS
17 SUBJECT TO A SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF LEAD POISONING.

18 (4) THE MEDICAL TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH LEAD
19 POISONING.

20 (5) THE EMERGENCY ABATEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL
21 CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE CAUSED LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN,
22 INCLUDING REMOVAL OR COVERING OF PAINT, PLASTER, SOIL OR
23 OTHER MATERIALS WHICH CONTAIN DANGEROUS LEVELS OF LEAD.

24 (6) PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS CONCERNING
25 LEAD POISONING.

26 (B) ELIGIBILITY FOR PROGRAM.--THE SECRETARY MAY ESTABLISH
27 FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THOSE PERSONS RECEIVING
28 SERVICES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (A)(3), (4) AND (5).

29 (C) STAFFING AND CONTRACTS.--THE SECRETARY MAY HIRE SUCH
30 PERSONS OR ENTER INTO SUCH CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS WITH

1 POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH, OTHER DEPARTMENTS
2 OR AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE
3 AGENCIES, OR ANY OTHER PERSONS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR CARRYING OUT
4 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

5 Section 6 7. Annual report. <—

6 The department shall make an annual report to the General
7 Assembly of its findings and recommendations concerning the
8 effectiveness, impact and benefits derived from the programs as
9 established pursuant to this section. The report shall be
10 submitted on or before the first day of February and shall
11 contain evaluations of the programs.

12 Section 7 8. Appropriation. <—

13 The sum of \$920,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
14 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Health for the
15 fiscal year July 1, 1989, to June 30, 1990, for distribution as
16 follows:

17	Capital Area Poison Center.....	37,000
18	Delaware Valley Poison Center.....	375,000
19	Keystone Region Poison Center.....	19,000
20	Lehigh Valley Poison Center.....	65,000
21	Northwest Regional Poison Center.....	18,000
22	Poison Control Center of Southwestern	
23	Pennsylvania.....	375,000
24	Susquehanna Poison Center.....	31,000

25 Section 8 9. Effective date. <—

26 This act shall take effect in 60 days.