

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1165 Session of  
1995

INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, SALVATORE, HELFRICK, O'PAKE, AFFLERBACH  
AND RHOADES, JUNE 29, 1995

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,  
JUNE 29, 1995

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 20, 1974 (P.L.564, No.193), entitled  
2 "An act providing for the increased use of peer review groups  
3 by giving protection to individuals and data who report to  
4 any review group," extending the protection given by the act  
5 to review committees of associations of veterinarians; and  
6 redefining "professional health care providers" to include  
7 veterinarians.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 2 of the act of July 20, 1974 (P.L.564,  
11 No.193), known as the Peer Review Protection Act, amended  
12 October 5, 1978 (P.L.1121, No.262), is amended to read:

13 Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act:

14 "Peer review" means the procedure for evaluation by  
15 professional health care providers of the quality and efficiency  
16 of services ordered or performed by other professional health  
17 care providers, including practice analysis, inpatient hospital  
18 and extended care facility utilization review, medical audit,  
19 ambulatory care review, claims review, and the compliance of a  
20 hospital, nursing home or convalescent home or other health care

1 facility operated by a professional health care provider with  
2 the standards set by an association of health care providers and  
3 with applicable laws, rules and regulations. Peer review, as it  
4 applies to veterinarians, shall mean the procedure for  
5 evaluation by licensed doctors of veterinary medicine of the  
6 quality and efficiency of veterinary medicine ordered or  
7 performed by other doctors of veterinary medicine with the  
8 standards set by an association of doctors of veterinary  
9 medicine and with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

10 "Professional health care provider" means:

11 (1) individuals or organizations who are approved, licensed  
12 or otherwise regulated to practice or operate in the health care  
13 field under the laws of the Commonwealth, including, but not  
14 limited to, the following individuals or organizations:

15 [(1) A physician.

16 (2) A dentist.

17 (3) A podiatrist.

18 (4) A chiropractor.

19 (5) An optometrist.

20 (6) A psychologist.

21 (7) A pharmacist.

22 (8) A registered or practical nurse.

23 (9) A physical therapist.

24 (10) An administrator of a hospital, a nursing or  
25 convalescent home, or other health care facility.

26 (11) A corporation or other organization operating a  
27 hospital, a nursing or convalescent home or other health care  
28 facility.]

29 (i) a physician;

30 (ii) a dentist;

1     (iii) a podiatrist;  
2     (iv) a chiropractor;  
3     (v) an optometrist;  
4     (vi) a psychologist;  
5     (vii) a pharmacist;  
6     (viii) a registered or practical nurse;  
7     (ix) a physical therapist;  
8     (x) an administrator of a hospital, a nursing or  
9     convalescent home or other health care facility; or  
10    (xi) a corporation or other organization operating a  
11    hospital, a nursing or convalescent home or other health care  
12    facility; or  
13    (2) individuals licensed to practice veterinary medicine  
14    under the laws of this Commonwealth.

15       "Professional society" includes medical, veterinary,  
16    psychological, nursing, dental, optometric, pharmaceutical,  
17    chiropractic and podiatric organizations having as members at  
18    least a majority of the eligible licentiates in the area or  
19    health care facility or agency served by the particular society.

20       "Review organization" means any committee engaging in peer  
21    review, including a hospital utilization review committee, a  
22    hospital tissue committee, a health insurance review committee,  
23    a hospital plan corporation review committee, a professional  
24    health service plan review committee, a dental review committee,  
25    a physicians' advisory committee, a veterinary review committee,  
26    a nursing advisory committee, any committee established pursuant  
27    to the medical assistance program, and any committee established  
28    by one or more State or local professional societies, to gather  
29    and review information relating to the care and treatment of  
30    patients for the purposes of (i) evaluating and improving the

1 quality of health care rendered; (ii) reducing morbidity or  
2 mortality; or (iii) establishing and enforcing guidelines  
3 designed to keep within reasonable bounds the cost of health  
4 care. It shall also mean any hospital board, committee or  
5 individual reviewing the professional qualifications or  
6 activities of its medical staff or applicants for admission  
7 thereto. It shall also mean a committee of an association of  
8 professional health care providers reviewing the operation of  
9 hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent homes or other health  
10 care facilities.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.