
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 137 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY ERICKSON, TOMLINSON, FERLO, RAFFERTY, ORIE,
FONTANA, MUSTO, GREENLEAF, HUGHES, ROBBINS, O'PAKE, BROWNE,
KITCHEN, COSTA, WONDERLING AND STACK, JANUARY 30, 2009

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, JANUARY 30, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and
16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,
17 and commissions; and prescribing the manner in which the
18 number and compensation of the deputies and all other
19 assistants and employes of certain departments, boards and
20 commissions shall be determined," in Department of Health,
21 establishing the Cardiovascular Disease Advisory Committee;
22 and providing for a Statewide stroke database.

23 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

24 hereby enacts as follows:

25 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known
26 as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding
27 sections to read:

1 Section 2126. Cardiovascular Disease Advisory Committee.--

2 (a) The Cardiovascular Disease Advisory Committee in the
3 Department of Health is established.

4 (b) The Cardiovascular Disease Advisory Committee shall:

5 (1) Advise the Department of Health on how to raise
6 awareness on prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke
7 among the public, the health care community and policymakers
8 using all available data.

9 (2) Identify evidence-based best practice education
10 strategies for the public to identify risk factors associated
11 with the cardiovascular disease and stroke and to identify
12 symptoms at onset.

13 (3) Identify and review evidence-based best practice health
14 promotion and disease prevention strategies related to
15 cardiovascular disease and stroke for implementation in this
16 Commonwealth, with the goal of reducing death and long-term
17 disability among the citizens of this Commonwealth.

18 (4) Identify limitations and problems associated with
19 existing laws, regulations, programs and services related to
20 cardiovascular disease and stroke and propose feasible changes.

21 (5) Examine evidence-based current and alternative treatment
22 options available for treating different types of cardiovascular
23 disease and stroke.

24 (6) Review data collected by the Department of Health
25 pursuant to section 2127 to identify areas of improved outcomes,
26 including reduced secondary stroke events.

27 (7) Identify any additional issues that come before the
28 advisory committee.

29 (c) (1) The Cardiovascular Disease Advisory Committee shall
30 consist of a maximum of sixteen members, including

1 representatives from the Department of Aging, the Department of
2 Health, the Insurance Department and the Department of Public
3 Welfare.

4 (2) The Secretary of Health shall appoint one representative
5 from each of the following fields to serve on the advisory
6 committee:

7 (i) Board-certified cardiac surgeon.

8 (ii) Board-certified neurologist.

9 (iii) Public health professional.

10 (iv) Licensed dietitian.

11 (v) Registered nurse with expertise in cardiovascular
12 disease.

13 (vi) Hospital administrator.

14 (vii) Disparate community.

15 (viii) Emergency medical services community.

16 (ix) Organization representing the rural population.

17 (x) Board-certified primary care provider that is a
18 physician specializing in either family practice or internal
19 medicine.

20 (xi) Nonprofit health service plan.

21 (xii) Voluntary organization that addresses cardiovascular
22 disease.

23 (d) The term of the advisory committee members shall be two
24 years from the respective date of their appointment, except that
25 the initial appointments shall be made in such a manner so that
26 six members appointed under subsection (c) (2) shall be appointed
27 for a term of two years, and six members shall be appointed for
28 a term of one year. A member shall hold office for the term of
29 his appointment and until a successor has been appointed and
30 qualified. All vacancies shall be filled for the balance of the

1 unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. A
2 member of the advisory committee is eligible for reappointment
3 by the Secretary of Health, contingent upon diligent attendance
4 at meetings of the board.

5 (e) The Secretary of Health or his designee will serve as
6 the chairperson of the advisory committee and may select a
7 secretary, who need not be a member of the advisory committee.

8 (f) Members who are not employes of State Government shall
9 be reimbursed for travel and other actual expenses reasonably
10 incurred in the performance of their duties.

11 (g) The advisory committee shall meet no less than twice
12 annually. Nine members of the advisory committee shall
13 constitute a quorum for the purpose of exercising all of the
14 powers of the advisory committee. A vote of the majority of the
15 members present shall be sufficient for all actions of the
16 advisory committee.

17 (h) This section shall expire December 31, 2013.

18 Section 2127. Stroke Data Collection.--(a) The Department
19 of Health shall establish and maintain a State-wide stroke
20 database that compiles stroke care information and statistics
21 relating to strokes in this Commonwealth and shall make
22 information and statistics available to the public on the
23 Department of Health's Internet website. The Department of
24 Health shall not be required to collect data for this database
25 that is already required to be collected by the Pennsylvania
26 Health Care Cost Containment Council.

27 (b) To every extent possible, the Department of Health shall
28 coordinate with the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment
29 Council to avoid duplication and redundancy in the collection of
30 data for the database.

1 (c) In establishing this database the Department of Health
2 shall use its annual survey of hospitals to collect aggregate
3 information by hospital on the Joint Commission of Accreditation
4 of Healthcare Organizations Primary Stroke Centers Standardized
5 Stroke Measure Set used, as a measurement of best practice for
6 stroke care.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.