
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 606 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, B. BOYLE, O'BRIEN, COHEN, BROWNLEE,
THOMAS, KINSEY, SANTARSIERO, DELUCA, V. BROWN, YOUNGBLOOD,
WATSON, PARKER AND MURT, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Child Care Health Consultant Task Force and
2 providing for its powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Child Care
7 Health Consultant Task Force Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative findings.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) On any given day about 360,000 children are in some
11 form of child day care in this Commonwealth. A great deal of
12 attention has been focused at both the national and State
13 level on preparing young children to enter school ready to
14 learn. Research indicates that early childhood development
15 programs and child day-care programs can contribute to that
16 goal and can positively impact the intellectual, social,
17 emotional and physical development of children.

1 (2) Physical health has also been shown to be an
2 indicator of children's ability to learn. It is widely known
3 that children who are not physically healthy are more likely
4 to have difficulty learning due to frequent absences,
5 illnesses and distractions.

6 (3) One strategy to address the health and safety needs
7 of young children in child day-care programs is to provide
8 technical assistance to child day-care providers through the
9 use of child care health consultants who have expertise in
10 best practices relating to children's health and safety in
11 child day-care programs. Currently, 33 states have programs
12 whereby nurses or other health care professionals assist
13 child day-care programs in improving the health and safety of
14 children in these programs.

15 Section 3. Definitions.

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

19 "Child care health consultant." An individual who is
20 currently licensed or certified in a related health profession
21 who has knowledge in pediatrics and developmentally appropriate
22 health and safety practices for children and who assists a child
23 day-care provider in recognizing and promoting the health and
24 safety of children.

25 "Child day care." Care in lieu of parental care given for
26 part of the 24-hour day to children under 16 years of age, away
27 from the child's home. The term does not include care in lieu of
28 parental care given to a child under 16 years of age in a place
29 of worship during religious services.

30 "Child day-care center." Any premises in which child day

1 care is provided simultaneously for seven or more children who
2 are not relatives of the provider and is subject to regulation
3 by the Department of Public Welfare.

4 "Child day-care provider." A child day-care center or family
5 day-care home.

6 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare of the
7 Commonwealth.

8 "Family day-care home." A home in which child day care is
9 provided at any one time to four, five or six children who are
10 not relatives of the provider of the child day care and which is
11 required to be registered under the act of June 13, 1967
12 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code.

13 "Task force." The Child Care Health Consultant Task Force.
14 Section 4. Establishment of task force.

15 The Child Care Health Consultant Task Force is established
16 within the department.

17 Section 5. Purpose of the task force.

18 The purpose of the task force is to advise the department,
19 the Governor and the General Assembly on the feasibility of
20 establishing a coordinated network of child care health
21 consultants to assist child day-care providers in recognizing
22 and promoting the health and safety of children in child day-
23 care centers and family day-care homes.

24 Section 6. Members of task force.

25 (a) Members.--Members of the task force shall be appointed
26 by the department within 30 days following the effective date of
27 this act. The task force shall consist of at least nine
28 individuals with expertise in child day care or child health
29 care. The task force must include representation from the
30 following:

1 (1) A Statewide association of child day-care providers.

2 (2) A Statewide association of family day-care home
3 providers.

4 (3) The department.

5 (4) The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

6 (5) A State organization dealing with standards and
7 accreditation of child day-care programs.

8 (6) A State association representing pediatricians.

9 (7) A State association representing nurses.

10 (8) A State association representing children with
11 special needs.

12 (9) A parent or relative of a child who has recently
13 received or is currently receiving services in a child day-
14 care center or family day-care home.

15 (b) Chair.--The department shall appoint a member of the
16 task force to chair the task force.

17 Section 7. Meetings of the task force and technical support.

18 (a) Meetings.--The department, in consultation with task
19 force members, shall prepare a schedule of meetings so that the
20 task force can fulfill its duties within the time frame
21 established by this act.

22 (b) Staff.--The department shall provide sufficient staff to
23 enable the task force to complete its duties under this act.

24 (c) Expenses.--Members shall not receive compensation but
25 shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in service of the task
26 force.

27 (d) Participation.--A member not physically present may
28 participate by teleconference.

29 (e) Voting.--Actions of the task force must be approved by a
30 majority of the members of the task force.

1 Section 8. Report.

2 (a) Submission.--Within nine months after being convened by
3 the department, the task force shall submit a report to the
4 Governor, the General Assembly and the department with findings
5 and recommendations regarding the development of a network of
6 child care health consultants in this Commonwealth that will
7 assist child day-care providers through a coordinated program of
8 resources and supports.

9 (b) Contents of the report.--The report, at a minimum, shall
10 include:

11 (1) A summary of any existing programs, funding, laws
12 and regulations in this Commonwealth relevant to development
13 of a network of child care health consultants.

14 (2) A review of other state laws, regulations and
15 programs that promote the use of child care health care
16 consultants and any Federal laws or programs related to
17 linking health care consultants to child care programs.

18 (3) Where information is available, a description of the
19 benefits of the use of child care health consultants in this
20 Commonwealth and in other states and possible benefits in
21 this Commonwealth of a network of child care health
22 consultants.

23 (4) A description of costs associated with arranging for
24 child care health consultants and possible use of Federal and
25 State funding for this purpose.

26 (5) Clarification of qualifications and categories of
27 health care practitioners who could qualify as child care
28 health consultants.

29 (6) A description of knowledge and skills necessary to
30 perform as a child care health consultant and how that can be

1 achieved.

2 (7) Recommendations relating to a plan for implementing
3 a child care health consultant program in this Commonwealth.

4 Section 9. Expiration.

5 This act shall expire one year following the effective date
6 of this act.

7 Section 10. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect in 60 days.