

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1567 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY SCAVELLO, V. BROWN, SCHLOSSBERG, DAVIS,
CALTAGIRONE, HAGGERTY, MILLARD, COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD, KORTZ,
GINGRICH, SABATINA, QUINN AND MURT, JUNE 20, 2013

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 16, 2013

AN ACT

1 Requiring ~~certain hospitals~~ HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS to disseminate <--
2 information relating to pertussis education; and imposing a
3 duty on the Department of Health.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pertussis
8 Education Act.

9 Section 2. Purpose of act.

10 The purpose of this act is to educate ~~mothers of newborn~~ <--
11 ~~infants regarding~~ EXPECTANT MOTHERS ABOUT pertussis disease and <--
12 the availability of vaccine to protect newborn children against
13 pertussis disease.

14 Section 3. Findings.

15 The General Assembly finds as follows:

16 (1) Commonly known as whooping cough, pertussis is a
17 highly contagious disease that can be prevented by

1 vaccination.

2 (2) During 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and
3 Prevention (CDC) reported an increase in pertussis in the
4 majority of states.

5 (3) Pennsylvania ranked 13th in the country in the
6 incidence of reported cases of pertussis.

7 (4) Pennsylvania's incidence of pertussis is higher than
8 the national incidence of cases of pertussis.

9 (5) Recommended vaccination for children is at 2, 4 and
10 6 months of age, followed by vaccination at 15 to 18 months
11 of age, ~~with the final vaccination when the child enters~~ <--

12 ~~school.~~ FOLLOWED BY VACCINATION WHEN THE CHILD ENTERS SCHOOL, <--
13 WITH THE FINAL VACCINATION WHEN THE CHILD IS BETWEEN 11 AND
14 12 YEARS OF AGE.

15 (6) Pertussis can cause very serious illness which can
16 be potentially life threatening in infants too young to be
17 vaccinated.

18 (7) More than half of infants who contract pertussis
19 must be hospitalized.

20 (8) Of those infants who are hospitalized with pertussis
21 about 1 in 5 will get pneumonia and 1 in 100 will die.

22 (9) By getting immunized during pregnancy, an expectant
23 mother can transfer pertussis antibodies to her newborn child
24 and likely protect against pertussis early in life before the
25 infant is old enough to receive the pertussis vaccine.

26 (10) The CDC recommends that providers of prenatal care
27 implement a program of pertussis immunization for all
28 pregnant women, preferably at 28 through 36 weeks of
29 gestation.

30 (11) The CDC recommends that families and caregivers of

1 newborns be vaccinated at least two weeks prior to coming
2 into close contact with a newborn.

3 SECTION 4. DEFINITIONS. <--

4 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ACT SHALL
5 HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
6 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

7 "HEALTH CARE PROVIDER." A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED
8 OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO PROVIDE OR RENDER HEALTH CARE
9 SERVICES TO PREGNANT WOMEN IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

10 "PRENATAL APPOINTMENTS." A SERIES OF VISITS BETWEEN A HEALTH
11 CARE PROVIDER AND A PREGNANT WOMAN THAT TAKE PLACE AT SCHEDULED
12 INTERVALS BETWEEN THE CONFIRMATION OF PREGNANCY AND THE
13 INITIATION OF LABOR.

14 Section 4 5. Dissemination of pertussis information by <--

15 ~~hospitals~~ HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS. <--

16 (a) Options.--A ~~hospital~~ HEALTH CARE PROVIDER that provides <--

17 health care services to a pregnant woman, which services are

18 directly related to her pregnancy, shall ~~before discharge after~~ <--

19 ~~giving birth,~~ provide her with educational information on

20 pertussis disease and the availability of a vaccine to protect

21 against pertussis AT HER FIRST PRENATAL APPOINTMENT. Provision <--

22 in a timely manner of publications prepared by the Department of

23 Health pursuant to section 5 shall constitute compliance with

24 this subsection.

25 (b) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be

26 construed as requiring:

27 (1) A health care provider to provide or pay for

28 vaccination against pertussis.

29 (2) A pregnant woman to receive vaccination against

30 pertussis.

1 Section ~~5~~ 6. Informational publications by Department of <--
2 Health.

3 The Department of Health shall, on the department's publicly
4 accessible Internet website, make available to health care
5 providers printable publications that include information on the
6 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations
7 that pregnant women, family members and infant caregivers
8 receive vaccination against pertussis ~~during the postpartum~~ <--
9 ~~period~~ to protect their newborns from the transmission of
10 pertussis.

11 Section ~~6~~ 7. Effective date. <--

12 This act shall take effect in 60 days.