
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2512 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY DAVIDSON, MURT, BISHOP, THOMAS, HARKINS, KOTIK,
McNEILL, CALTAGIRONE, GROVE, McGEEHAN, COHEN, V. BROWN,
KINSEY, PASHINSKI, M. DALEY, DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, BROWNLEE
AND YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 9, 1976 (P.L.817, No.143), entitled "An
2 act relating to mental health procedures; providing for the
3 treatment and rights of mentally disabled persons, for
4 voluntary and involuntary examination and treatment and for
5 determinations affecting those charged with crime or under
6 sentence," further providing for involuntary emergency
7 examination and treatment authorized by a physician.

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

10 Section 1. Section 302(c) of the act of July 9, 1976
11 (P.L.817, No.143), known as the Mental Health Procedures Act, is
12 amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to
13 read:

14 Section 302. Involuntary Emergency Examination and Treatment
15 Authorized by a Physician - Not to Exceed One Hundred Twenty
16 Hours.--* * *

17 (c) Notification of Rights at Emergency Examination.--Upon
18 arrival at the facility, the person shall be informed of the
19 reasons for emergency examination and of his right to

1 communicate immediately with others. He shall be given
2 reasonable use of the telephone. He shall be requested to
3 furnish the names of parties whom he may want notified of his
4 custody and kept informed of his status. The county
5 administrator or the director of the facility shall:

6 (1) give notice to such parties of the whereabouts and
7 status of the person, how and when he may be contacted and
8 visited, and how they may obtain information concerning him
9 while he is in inpatient treatment; [and]

10 (1.1) notwithstanding section 111, inform the person's next
11 of kin that his relative has entered the facility for emergency
12 evaluation and treatment; and

13 (2) take reasonable steps to assure that while the person is
14 detained, the health and safety needs of any of his dependents
15 are met, and that his personal property and the premises he
16 occupies are secure.

17 * * *

18 (e) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "next of
19 kin" means the spouse and relatives by blood, including, but not
20 limited to, parents and guardians, as long as the person is an
21 adult or an emancipated minor.

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