
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 16 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY YUDICHAK, HUGHES, FONTANA, KITCHEN, HAYWOOD,
COSTA, SABATINA, ARGALL, TEPLITZ, WOZNIAK, GREENLEAF,
FARNESE, WILEY, WARD, BLAKE, SCHWANK AND BREWSTER,
APRIL 20, 2016

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, APRIL 20, 2016

AN ACT

1 Establishing a task force on lead and the hazards of lead
2 poisoning; and authorizing a study.

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

5 Section 1. Legislative findings.

6 The General Assembly finds as follows:

7 (1) The recent events in Flint, Michigan, have brought
8 national attention to lead levels in drinking water.

9 (2) Based on the 2010 census, Pennsylvania ranks fifth
10 nationally in the percentage of homes built before 1978.

11 (3) Based on the 2010 census, Pennsylvania ranks fifth
12 nationally in the percentage of homes built before 1950.

13 (4) Older homes are significantly more likely to contain
14 lead paint, lead pipes or copper pipes with lead soldering.

15 (5) Lead affects virtually every system in the body and
16 is particularly harmful to a child's developing brain and
17 nervous system.

1 Section 2. Definitions.

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

5 "Commission." The Joint State Government Commission of the
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

8 "Task force." The lead task force established under this
9 act.

10 Section 3. Establishment and composition.

11 (a) Establishment.--There is established within the
12 commission a lead task force to provide for the purposes
13 authorized under subsection (b) and to make recommendations to
14 the Governor and the General Assembly regarding legislative,
15 regulatory or policy initiatives designed to protect the public
16 health from lead exposure.

17 (b) Purposes.--The purposes of the task force are to:

18 (1) Provide a comprehensive assessment of the health
19 concerns of lead on the residents of this Commonwealth.

20 (2) Assess and study the prevalence of lead in homes,
21 schools, day-care centers, pipelines and other places in
22 which lead exposure is possible.

23 (3) Study the remedies used by the Commonwealth and
24 other states and make recommendations to the General Assembly
25 on changes to laws, regulations, rules or programs to ensure
26 that the health of the residents of this Commonwealth is
27 protected from the effects of lead.

28 (c) Composition.--The task force shall be composed of the
29 following members:

30 (1) The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee.

1 (2) The Secretary of Environmental Protection, or his or
2 her designee.

3 (3) The Secretary of Education, or his or her designee.

4 (4) The Secretary of Human Services, or his or her
5 designee.

6 (5) The chairperson of the Pennsylvania Public Utility
7 Commission, or his or her designee.

8 (6) The executive director of the Pennsylvania Housing
9 and Finance Agency, or his or her designee.

10 (7) The Physician General of the Commonwealth, or his or
11 her designee.

12 (8) The executive director of the Housing Alliance of
13 Pennsylvania.

14 (9) Nine individuals appointed by the commission as
15 follows:

16 (i) two individuals who are pediatric doctors with
17 experience in lead poisoning;

18 (ii) one individual who is the parent of a child
19 with elevated lead levels;

20 (iii) one individual representing municipal water
21 authorities;

22 (iv) one individual representing rural water
23 companies;

24 (v) one individual representing investor-owned water
25 companies that are not owned by a municipal water
26 authority or a rural water company;

27 (vi) one individual who is certified to remediate
28 lead in this Commonwealth;

29 (vii) one individual who works in maintenance in a
30 school in an urban school district; and

1 (viii) one individual who works in maintenance in a
2 school in a rural school district.

3 (10) One member of the Senate appointed by the President
4 pro tempore.

5 (11) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
6 Leader of the Senate.

7 (12) One member of the House of Representatives
8 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

9 (13) One member of the House of Representatives
10 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
11 Representatives.

12 Section 4. Powers and duties.

13 The task force shall work with the department to conduct a
14 comprehensive review and analysis of the laws, regulations,
15 policies and procedures of the Commonwealth and of other states
16 regarding an assessment of lead as a public health concern. The
17 task force's analysis and recommendations shall include, but not
18 be limited to, the following areas:

19 (1) An assessment of the age of this Commonwealth's
20 housing stock, public housing units, water pipelines, school
21 buildings and day-care facilities.

22 (2) An assessment of the threat lead exposure places on
23 public health.

24 (3) An assessment of the prevalence of lead in homes,
25 schools, day-care centers and other places in which children
26 spend a majority of their days.

27 (4) An assessment of the Commonwealth's approach to lead
28 testing and remediation and how it compares to other states.

29 (5) An assessment of the cost of remediating lead
30 hazards in this Commonwealth and potential funding sources

1 for remediation assistance programs.

2 (6) Other assessments of lead-related issues deemed
3 appropriate by the commission.

4 Section 5. Report.

5 (a) Submission.--The task force shall submit a report
6 containing its findings and recommendations no later than
7 December 31, 2017, to the following:

8 (1) The Governor.

9 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate.

10 (3) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

11 (4) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

12 (5) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

13 (b) Publication.--Upon submission of the report required
14 under subsection (a), the task force shall transmit notice of
15 the submission of the report to the Legislative Reference Bureau
16 for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

17 Section 6. Meetings, compensation and administrative support.

18 (a) Meetings.--The task force shall hold its first meeting
19 within 60 days of the effective date of this act and shall meet
20 as deemed necessary by the chairperson in order to carry out the
21 purposes of this act.

22 (b) Administrative support.--The commission shall make
23 office space available to the task force. The commission shall
24 provide administrative support and any other technical
25 assistance required by the task force to carry out its duties
26 under this act.

27 Section 7. Expiration.

28 This act shall expire upon publication of the notice under
29 section 5(b).

30 Section 8. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect immediately.