

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, BREWSTER AND DINNIMAN,
APRIL 20, 2016

SENATOR VANCE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, AS AMENDED,
JUNE 22, 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

1 nervous system.

2 Section 2. Definitions.

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

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

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

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

11 Section 3. Establishment and composition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (vii) one individual who works in maintenance in a

1 school in an urban school district; and

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

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

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

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

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

13 Section 4. Powers and duties.

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

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

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

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

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

30 (5) An assessment of the cost of remediating lead

1 hazards in this Commonwealth and potential funding sources
2 for remediation assistance programs.

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

5 Section 5. Report.

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

9 (1) The Governor.

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

11 (3) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

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

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

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

18 Section 6. Meetings, compensation and administrative support.

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

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

28 Section 7. Expiration.

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

1 Section 8. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect immediately.