

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 385 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY HAHN, CHARLTON, MILLARD, SAINATO, MURT, LONGIETTI, HELM, W. KELLER AND ZIMMERMAN, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 26, 2001 (P.L.755, No.77), entitled "An  
 2 act establishing a special fund and account for money  
 3 received by the Commonwealth from the Master Settlement  
 4 Agreement with tobacco manufacturers; providing for home and  
 5 community-based care, for tobacco use prevention and  
 6 cessation efforts, for Commonwealth universal research  
 7 enhancement, for hospital uncompensated care, for health  
 8 investment insurance, for medical assistance for workers with  
 9 disabilities, for regional biotechnology research centers,  
 10 for the HealthLink Program, for community-based health care  
 11 assistance programs, for PACE reinstatement and PACENET  
 12 expansion, for medical education loan assistance and for  
 13 percentage allocation and appropriation of moneys," in  
 14 Commonwealth universal research enhancement, providing for  
 15 Spinal Cord Injury Research Program, further providing for  
 16 department responsibilities and for use of funds and  
 17 providing for spinal cord injury research programs funding.

18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 19 hereby enacts as follows:

20 Section 1. The act of June 26, 2001 (P.L.755, No.77), known  
 21 as the Tobacco Settlement Act, is amended by adding a section to  
 22 read:

23 Section 903.1. Spinal Cord Injury Research Program.

24 (a) Program establishment.--

25 (1) In addition to section 903, there is established in

1 the department a research program that shall be known as the  
2 Spinal Cord Injury Research Program. Appropriations from the  
3 fund to the department shall be used to fund research  
4 projects regarding spinal cord injuries and related  
5 infrastructure by eligible applicants.

6 (2) Funds appropriated for the program may be used to  
7 conduct peer reviews and performance reviews.

8 (b) Advisory committee.--

9 (1) There is established in the department the Spinal  
10 Cord Research Advisory Committee.

11 (2) The secretary shall appoint nine members to the  
12 advisory committee, which shall consist of the following:

13 (i) One member representing a Pennsylvania medical  
14 college or university.

15 (ii) Two members who are neurosurgeons.

16 (iii) Two members who are physicians who specialize  
17 in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

18 (iv) One member who is a physician specializing in  
19 the treatment of spinal cord injuries.

20 (v) One member who has a spinal cord injury.

21 (vi) One member who is a family member of a person  
22 with a spinal cord injury.

23 (vii) One member who is a veteran who has a spinal  
24 cord injury.

25 (3) Terms are as follows:

26 (i) The secretary shall appoint members to a term of  
27 two years.

28 (ii) An appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for  
29 the period of the unexpired term or until a successor is  
30 appointed.

1       (4) The committee shall meet as needed, but at least  
2 twice a year, to fulfill the purposes provided for in this  
3 chapter. A majority of the members of the committee  
4 constitutes a quorum. A majority of the members of the  
5 committee has authority to act upon any matter properly  
6 before it. The committee is authorized to establish rules for  
7 its operation and shall hold public hearings, as necessary,  
8 to obtain public input and make recommendations to the  
9 department regarding research priorities, evaluation and  
10 accountability procedures and related issues. Meetings of the  
11 committee shall be conducted under 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating  
12 to open meetings).

13       (5) Members shall receive no payment for their services.  
14 Members who are not employees of State government shall be  
15 reimbursed for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in  
16 the course of their official duties.

17       Section 2. Sections 904(1) and (2) and 906 of the act are  
18 amended to read:

19       Section 904. Department responsibilities.

20       The department has the following powers and duties:

21           (1) Administer the [health] research [program] programs  
22 established under this chapter.

23           (2) Establish, in conjunction with the Health Research  
24 Advisory Committee and the Spinal Cord Research Advisory  
25 Committee, the research priorities of the Commonwealth. In  
26 developing these research priorities, the national health  
27 promotion and disease prevention objectives established by  
28 the United States Department of Health and Human Services, as  
29 applied to this Commonwealth, shall be considered. The  
30 priorities shall include the identification of critical

1 research areas, disparities in health status among various  
2 Commonwealth populations, expected research outcomes and  
3 benefits and disease prevention and treatment methodologies.  
4 The priorities shall be reviewed annually and revised as  
5 necessary.

6 \* \* \*

7 Section 906. Use of funds.

8 Research projects conducted under this section shall be  
9 consistent with the priorities established under section 904(2).  
10 Funds under this section shall be allocated for the following  
11 purposes:

12 (1) Seventy percent of the funds appropriated under this  
13 section shall be used to fund research pursuant to section  
14 908.

15 (2) Fifteen percent of the funds appropriated under this  
16 section shall be used to fund clinical and health services  
17 research projects by eligible applicants.

18 (3) Fifteen percent of the funds appropriated under this  
19 section shall be [used to fund other research projects by  
20 eligible applicants.] allocated in the following manner:

21 (i) Not less than \$1,000,000 shall be used to fund  
22 research pursuant to section 909.1.

23 (ii) The remaining amount shall be used to fund  
24 other research projects by eligible participants.

25 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:  
26 Section 909.1. Spinal cord injury research programs funding.

27 (a) Eligible institutions.--An institution that conducts  
28 research on spinal cord injuries in this Commonwealth shall be  
29 eligible to receive a grant under section 906(3).

30 (b) Eligible research.--Grants shall be awarded to conduct

1 research into new and innovative treatments and rehabilitative  
2 efforts for the functional improvement of people with spinal  
3 cord injuries, which may include, but are not limited to:

4 (1) pharmaceuticals;

5 (2) medical devices;

6 (3) brain stimulus; and

7 (4) rehabilitative approaches and techniques.

8 (c) Additional funds.--The department may solicit funds to  
9 supplement grants awarded for spinal cord injury research under  
10 section 906(3).

11 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.