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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1482 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY GROVE, SCHWEYER, PHILLIPS-HILL, SAYLOR AND  
D. COSTA, JUNE 2, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 2, 2017

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), entitled  
2 "An act relating to counties of the first, third, fourth,  
3 fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes; amending, revising,  
4 consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto;  
5 relating to imposition of excise taxes by counties, including  
6 authorizing imposition of an excise tax on the rental of  
7 motor vehicles by counties of the first class; and providing  
8 for regional renaissance initiatives," providing for County  
9 Nursing Facility Innovation Pilot Program.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. The act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130),  
13 known as The County Code, is amended by adding an article to  
14 read:

15 ARTICLE XXIX

16 COUNTY NURSING FACILITY INNOVATION PILOT PROGRAM

17 Section 2901. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
19 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
20 context clearly indicates otherwise:

21 "County nursing facility." As defined in section 801-A of

1 the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human  
2 Services Code.

3 "Department." The Department of Human Services of the  
4 Commonwealth.

5 "Eligible participant." A county selected by the department  
6 to participate in the program.

7 "Program." The County Nursing Facility Innovation Pilot  
8 Program established under section 2902.

9 Section 2902. Pilot program.

10 (a) Establishment.--The County Nursing Facility Innovation  
11 Pilot Program is established within the department to improve  
12 health care outcomes for residents at county nursing facilities.

13 (b) Criteria and procedures.--The department shall establish  
14 criteria and procedures for the selection of a county to become  
15 an eligible participant.

16 (c) Flexible policies.--Notwithstanding any applicable  
17 Federal or State law to the contrary, the program shall provide  
18 each eligible participant with greater flexibility under the  
19 department's existing rules and regulations to pursue the  
20 following within a county nursing facility:

21 (1) Evidence-based methods and procedures to improve  
22 health care outcomes for residents of a county nursing  
23 facility.

24 (2) New methods to coordinate services with managed care  
25 organizations and facilities.

26 (3) New methods to improve coordination for the delivery  
27 of health care services to residents of a county nursing  
28 facility.

29 (4) Incentives for available health care providers or  
30 programs to partner with a county nursing facility to improve

1 care for residents of a county nursing facility.

2 (5) Methods and policies to reduce costs for operating a  
3 county nursing facility.

4 (6) The maximization of available grants to improve  
5 funding for a county nursing facility.

6 (d) Incentives.--As part of the program, the department  
7 shall develop and provide incentives which are based on evidence  
8 of successful performance outcomes by an eligible participant.

9 Section 2903. Reports.

10 (a) Frequency and purpose.--Each eligible participant,  
11 through its governing body, shall report biennially to the  
12 department and provide the department with evidence and any  
13 other related information required by the department regarding  
14 performance outcomes under the program.

15 (b) Contents.--A report under this section shall include,  
16 but not be limited to, the following:

17 (1) A description of improved health care outcomes as a  
18 result of the program.

19 (2) A description of improved coordination of care for  
20 residents of a county nursing facility as a result of the  
21 program.

22 (3) A description of increased partnerships with the  
23 eligible participant and other available programs or health  
24 care providers.

25 (4) Recommendations on how to further achieve the  
26 objectives of the program.

27 Section 2904. Rules and regulations.

28 The department shall promulgate rules and regulations  
29 necessary to implement the provisions of this article, which may  
30 not increase costs for a county, county nursing facility or

1 other organization which contracts for services with a county.

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