
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2618 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY C. QUINN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DALEY AND ROEBUCK,
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112),
2 entitled "An act relating to the right to practice medicine
3 and surgery and the right to practice medically related acts;
4 reestablishing the State Board of Medical Education and
5 Licensure as the State Board of Medicine and providing for
6 its composition, powers and duties; providing for the
7 issuance of licenses and certificates and the suspension and
8 revocation of licenses and certificates; provided penalties;
9 and making repeals," further providing for genetic counselor.

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

12 Section 1. Section 13.4(c) of the act of December 20, 1985
13 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, is
14 amended to read:

15 Section 13.4. Genetic counselor.

16 * * *

17 (c) Scope of practice.--

18 (1) A genetic counselor may provide genetic counseling
19 to clients, which includes:

20 (i) Obtain and evaluate individual and family
21 medical histories to determine genetic risk for genetic

1 or medical conditions and diseases in a patient and other
2 family members.

3 (ii) Discuss the features, natural history, means of
4 diagnosis, genetic and environmental factors and
5 management of risk for the genetic or medical conditions
6 and diseases.

7 (iii) Identify, order and coordinate genetic
8 laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies as
9 appropriate for the genetic assessment.

10 (iv) Integrate the genetic laboratory test results
11 and other diagnostic studies with personal and family
12 medical history to assess and communicate risk factors
13 for genetic or medical conditions and diseases.

14 (v) Explain the clinical implications of genetic
15 laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies and their
16 results.

17 (vi) Evaluate the client's or family's responses to
18 the condition or risk of the recurrence and provide
19 client-centered counseling.

20 (vii) Identify and utilize community resources that
21 provide medical, educational, financial and psychosocial
22 support and advocacy.

23 (viii) Provide written documentation of medical,
24 genetic and counseling information for families and
25 health care professionals.

26 (2) When in the course of providing genetic counseling
27 services to a client, if a genetic counselor finds any
28 indication of a disease or condition that requires diagnosis
29 and treatment outside the scope of practice defined in this
30 section, the genetic counselor shall refer the client to a

1 licensed physician or appropriate health care practitioner.

2 (3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
3 authorize a genetic counselor to diagnose[, test] or treat
4 any genetic disease or condition or other disease or
5 condition.

6 * * *

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