
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 533 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, COSTA, SABATINA, TARTAGLIONE, BREWSTER,
BROWNE AND BLAKE, MARCH 24, 2017

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 24, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for emergency addiction
3 treatment; and imposing powers and duties on the Department
4 of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 83

10 EMERGENCY ADDICTION TREATMENT

11 Subchapter

12 A. Preliminary Provisions

13 B. Program

14 SUBCHAPTER A

15 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

16 Sec.

17 8301. Short title of chapter.

18 8302. Definitions.

19 § 8301. Short title of chapter.

1 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Emergency
2 Addiction Treatment Act.

3 § 8302. Definitions.

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

7 "Department." The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs of
8 the Commonwealth.

9 "Program." The Emergency Addiction Treatment Program
10 established in section 8310 (relating to Emergency Addiction
11 Treatment Program).

12 SUBCHAPTER B

13 PROGRAM

14 Sec.

15 8310. Emergency Addiction Treatment Program.

16 § 8310. Emergency Addiction Treatment Program.

17 (a) Establishment.--The Emergency Addiction Treatment
18 Program is established in the Department of Drug and Alcohol
19 Programs to provide addiction treatment in licensed long-term
20 residential addiction treatment facilities, including licensed
21 halfway houses, for individuals who are unable to obtain timely
22 or appropriate treatment, as determined by the department, and
23 to establish such treatment facilities. The program shall be
24 administered by the department.

25 (b) Powers and duties of department.--In order to provide
26 individuals seeking assistance with better and more timely
27 access to drug and alcohol addiction treatment, the department
28 shall:

29 (1) Maintain a toll-free telephone number to assist
30 individuals seeking help for drug and alcohol problems. The

1 telephone number shall be posted on the department's publicly
2 accessible Internet website and shall be posted or published
3 by the department in such other media as the department
4 determines is necessary to reach as many individuals as
5 possible.

6 (2) Provide assistance in accessing addiction treatment.
7 The department may provide this service by contract.

8 (3) Develop and maintain a database identifying problems
9 and patterns in accessing appropriate addiction treatment.

10 (4) Develop and provide a program to educate and counsel
11 families with addiction problems on how to prevent and treat
12 addiction.

13 (5) Prepare an annual report to the General Assembly on
14 the activities described in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3),
15 including recommendations for improving access to addiction
16 treatment. The report shall be posted on the department's
17 publicly accessible Internet website.

18 (c) Guidelines.--The department shall develop and forward to
19 the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the
20 Pennsylvania Bulletin guidelines for the implementation of the
21 program established under section 1203-B of the act of March 4,
22 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, and to
23 govern the eligible use of the fund by counties and other
24 entities or persons that provide addiction treatment services to
25 individuals in licensed long-term residential addiction
26 treatment facilities, including halfway houses.

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