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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1220 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, FONTANA, AUMENT, RESCHENTHALER,  
VULAKOVICH, RAFFERTY, COSTA, FARNESE, HUGHES AND BLAKE,  
AUGUST 9, 2018

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REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AUGUST 9, 2018

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the Advisory Council on PANDAS and PANS; and  
2 providing for the duties of the Advisory Council on PANDAS  
3 and PANS.

4 TABLE OF CONTENTS

5 Chapter 1. Preliminary Provisions

6 Section 101. Short title.

7 Chapter 3. Advisory Council on PANDAS and PANS

8 Section 301. Definitions.

9 Section 302. Establishment of advisory council.

10 Section 303. Compensation of advisory council members.

11 Section 304. Meetings.

12 Section 305. Quorum.

13 Section 306. Duties of advisory council.

14 Chapter 5. Miscellaneous Provisions

15 Section 501. Effective date.

16 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
17 hereby enacts as follows:

18 CHAPTER 1

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Section 101. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Advisory Council on PANDAS and PANS Act.

CHAPTER 3

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PANDAS AND PANS

Section 301. Definitions.

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

"Advisory council." The Advisory Council on PANDAS and PANS.

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

"PANDAS." Pediatric Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections.

"PANS." Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome.

"Secretary." The Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth.

Section 302. Establishment of advisory council.

(a) Establishment.--The secretary shall establish the Advisory Council on PANDAS and PANS for the purpose of advising the secretary on PANDAS and PANS, including on matters relating to the research, diagnosis, treatment and education of PANDAS and PANS.

(b) Members.--Except as provided for members under paragraphs (14), (15), (16) and (17), the secretary shall appoint the following members to the advisory council:

(1) A licensed immunologist who practices in this Commonwealth and has experience treating individuals with PANDAS, PANS and the use of intravenous immunoglobulin.

(2) A licensed health care practitioner who practices in this Commonwealth and has expertise in treating individuals

1 with PANDAS, PANS and autism.

2 (3) A representative of the PANDAS/PANS Resource Network  
3 from this Commonwealth.

4 (4) A licensed osteopathic physician who practices in  
5 this Commonwealth and who has experience treating individuals  
6 with PANDAS and PANS.

7 (5) A medical researcher with experience conducting  
8 research concerning PANDAS, PANS, obsessive-compulsive  
9 disorder, tic disorder and other neurological disorders.

10 (6) A certified dietitian or nutritionist who practices  
11 in this Commonwealth and provides services to children with  
12 autism spectrum disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and  
13 other neurodevelopmental conditions.

14 (7) A representative of a professional organization in  
15 this Commonwealth for school psychologists.

16 (8) A child psychiatrist who has experience treating  
17 individuals with PANDAS and PANS.

18 (9) A representative of a professional organization in  
19 this Commonwealth for school nurses.

20 (10) A pediatrician who has experience treating  
21 individuals with PANDAS and PANS.

22 (11) A representative of an organization focused on  
23 autism.

24 (12) A parent with a child who has been diagnosed with  
25 PANDAS or PANS.

26 (13) A licensed social worker who practices in this  
27 Commonwealth.

28 (14) A representative of the Bureau of Special Education  
29 of the Department of Education.

30 (15) The chairman of the Health and Human Services

1 Committee of the Senate or the chairman's designee.

2 (16) The chairman of the Health Committee of the House  
3 of Representatives or the chairman's designee.

4 (17) The secretary or the secretary's designee, who  
5 shall be a nonvoting member.

6 (c) General Assembly.--A member of the advisory committee  
7 under subsection (b) (1) through (13) may be a member of the  
8 General Assembly.

9 (d) Deadline.--All appointments to the advisory council  
10 shall be made no later than 30 days after the effective date of  
11 this section.

12 Section 303. Compensation of advisory council members.

13 A member of the advisory council shall receive no  
14 compensation except for reimbursement for necessary expenses  
15 incurred in performing the member's duties.

16 Section 304. Meetings.

17 The secretary shall call the first meeting of the advisory  
18 council no later than 60 days after the effective date of this  
19 section. The advisory council shall meet upon the call of the  
20 chairman or upon the request of a majority of the advisory  
21 council members.

22 Section 305. Quorum.

23 A majority of the advisory council members shall constitute a  
24 quorum. A majority vote of a quorum shall be required for any  
25 official action of the advisory council.

26 Section 306. Duties of advisory council.

27 The advisory council shall have the following duties:

28 (1) The advisory council shall elect the chairman of the  
29 advisory council.

30 (2) No later than January 1, 2020, and annually

1 thereafter, the advisory council shall submit a report to the  
2 Health and Human Services Committee of the Senate and the  
3 Health Committee of the House of Representatives. The report  
4 shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations on the  
5 following matters:

6 (i) Practice guidelines for the diagnosis and  
7 treatment of PANDAS and PANS.

8 (ii) Mechanisms to increase clinical awareness and  
9 education of PANDAS and PANS among health care  
10 practitioners, including pediatricians, school-based  
11 health centers and providers of mental health services.

12 (iii) Outreach programs for educators and parents to  
13 increase awareness of PANDAS and PANS.

14 (iv) The development of a network of volunteer  
15 experts on the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS and PANS  
16 to assist in education and outreach.

17 CHAPTER 5

18 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

19 Section 501. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect in 60 days.