

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2481 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, SNYDER, A. DAVIS, RAVENSTAHL, DeLUCA,
SCHWEYER, MERSKI, GALLOWAY, WEBSTER, YOUNGBLOOD, STEPHENS,
ROZZI, BURGOS, MILLARD, JAMES, HANBIDGE, THOMAS, HOHENSTEIN,
NEILSON, MALAGARI, FREEMAN, HARKINS, McCLINTON, FIEDLER,
MARSHALL, McNEILL, DELLOSO, ZABEL, HOWARD, GAINNEY AND KORTZ,
MAY 4, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 4, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), entitled "An
2 act relating to health care; prescribing the powers and
3 duties of the Department of Health; establishing and
4 providing the powers and duties of the State Health
5 Coordinating Council, health systems agencies and Health Care
6 Policy Board in the Department of Health, and State Health
7 Facility Hearing Board in the Department of Justice;
8 providing for certification of need of health care providers
9 and prescribing penalties," in powers and duties of the
10 department, providing for response to COVID-19 pandemic.

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

13 Section 1. The act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known
14 as the Health Care Facilities Act, is amended by adding a
15 section to read:

16 Section 203. Response to COVID-19 pandemic.

17 (a) Inspections.--The department shall inspect each long-
18 term care nursing facility in this Commonwealth to determine and
19 assess the long-term care nursing facility's control and
20 mitigation procedures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

1 (b) Testing.--The department shall provide and conduct
2 testing for all staff and residents at each long-term care
3 nursing facility in this Commonwealth as part of the long-term
4 care nursing facility's control and mitigation procedures
5 regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

6 (c) Collection and dissemination of information.--The
7 department shall record and post on the department's publicly
8 accessible Internet website, on a daily basis, the findings and
9 assessments made under this section.

10 (d) Personnel and resources.--The department shall provide
11 adequate personnel and resources to mitigate an outbreak
12 resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

13 (e) Definitions.--The following words and phrases when used
14 in this section shall have the meanings given to them in this
15 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "COVID-19." The novel coronavirus as identified in the
17 proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on
18 March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and
19 any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

20 "Long-term care nursing facility." As defined in section
21 802.1.

22 "Outbreak." Three or more consecutive days of increasing
23 cases involving COVID-19 among staff or residents of a long-term
24 care nursing facility.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.