
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2883 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, DeLUCA, KULIK, INNAMORATO, BURGOS,
GALLOWAY, FREEMAN, ROZZI, YOUNGBLOOD, ZABEL, DELLOSO, SIMS,
MADDEN AND SCHLOSSBERG, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Targeted Outbreak Detection (TOD) System; and
2 imposing duties on the Department of Environmental Protection
3 and the Department of Health.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Targeted
8 Outbreak Detection (TOD) Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Designated laboratory." A laboratory that is accredited by
14 the Department of Environmental Protection or the Department of
15 Health.

16 "Public health emergency." A declaration by the Governor of
17 a disaster emergency under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c) (relating to

1 general authority of Governor) that involves public health.

2 "Sampling collection network." A wastewater treatment
3 facility in the system.

4 "State laboratory." A laboratory within the Department of
5 Environmental Protection or the Department of Health.

6 "System." The Targeted Outbreak Detection (TOD) System
7 established under section 3.

8 "Wastewater." Water that:

9 (1) contains wastes from households, commercial
10 facilities and industrial operations; and

11 (2) may be mixed with surface water, storm water or
12 groundwater that has infiltrated the collection system.

13 "Wastewater treatment facility." The building, process and
14 equipment needed to treat wastewater, including a facility
15 subject to 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 56 (relating to municipal authorities)
16 or 66 Pa.C.S. (relating to public utilities) and any regulation
17 promulgated thereunder.

18 Section 3. Targeted Outbreak Detection System.

19 (a) Establishment.--The Targeted Outbreak Detection (TOD)
20 System is established within the Department of Health.

21 (b) Purpose.--The purpose of the program is to help public
22 health officials understand and respond to a public health
23 emergency in this Commonwealth through the testing of
24 wastewater.

25 Section 4. Sampling and testing.

26 (a) Authority of Department of Health.--The Department of
27 Health may require a wastewater treatment facility in this
28 Commonwealth to participate in the sampling collection network,
29 through which the wastewater treatment facility shall be
30 required to collect and submit wastewater samples as part of a

1 surveillance plan deemed necessary by the Department of Health.

2 (b) Procedures.--A wastewater treatment facility required to
3 participate under subsection (a) shall take composite samples of
4 untreated wastewater. The following shall apply:

5 (1) Samples may be obtained simultaneously with other
6 samples required by the Department of Environmental
7 Protection.

8 (2) Samples may be obtained using existing sampling and
9 data collection methods.

10 (3) The wastewater treatment facility shall submit
11 samples to a State laboratory or designated laboratory that
12 is equipped with appropriate analytical instruments, as
13 determined by the Department of Health.

14 (c) Administration of sampling and testing.--The Department
15 of Health shall:

16 (1) Manage the system's testing procedures and analysis
17 processes, which shall include extraction, detection,
18 analysis and interpretation of the epidemiological data.

19 (2) Establish procedures for sampling, analysis, data
20 collection and quality control measures.

21 (d) Training program.--The Department of Health may
22 establish a training program for wastewater treatment facilities
23 as necessary.

24 Section 5. Regulations.

25 The Department of Environmental Protection and the Department
26 of Health may promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the
27 provisions of this act.

28 Section 6. Reporting.

29 At the discretion of the Department of Health, the Department
30 of Health shall share information with the general public

1 regarding data, sampling and testing procedures under this act
2 and post the information on the publicly accessible Internet
3 website of the Department of Health.

4 Section 7. Effective date.

5 This act shall take effect in 60 days.