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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 36 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, FARNESE, BREWSTER,  
COSTA, HUGHES, AUMENT AND J. WARD, JANUARY 11, 2019

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REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, JANUARY 11, 2019

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

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18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1 hereby enacts as follows:

2 CHAPTER 1

3 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

4 Section 101. Short title.

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

7 CHAPTER 3

8 ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PANDAS and PANS

9 Section 301. Definitions.

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

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

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

15 "PANDAS." Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders  
16 Associated with Streptococcal Infections.

17 "PANS." Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome.

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

19 Section 302. Establishment of advisory council.

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

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

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

1           (2) A licensed health care practitioner who practices in  
2 this Commonwealth and has expertise in treating individuals  
3 with PANDAS, PANS and autism.

4           (3) A representative of the PANDAS/PANS Resource Network  
5 who is a resident of this Commonwealth.

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

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

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

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

18           (8) A child psychiatrist who practices in this  
19 Commonwealth and has experience treating individuals with  
20 PANDAS and PANS.

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

23           (10) A pediatrician who practices in this Commonwealth  
24 and has experience treating individuals with PANDAS and PANS.

25           (11) A representative of an organization in this  
26 Commonwealth focused on autism.

27           (12) A Commonwealth resident with a child diagnosed with  
28 PANDAS or PANS.

29           (13) A licensed social worker who practices in this  
30 Commonwealth.

1           (14) The Secretary of Education or the secretary's  
2           designee.

3           (15) The chair and minority chair of the Health and  
4           Human Services Committee of the Senate or their designees.

5           (16) The chair and minority chair of the Health  
6           Committee of the House of Representatives or their designees.

7           (17) The secretary or the secretary's designee.

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

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

14          Section 303. Compensation of advisory council members.

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

18          Section 304. Meetings.

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

24          Section 305. Quorum.

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

28          Section 306. Duties of advisory council.

29          The advisory council shall have the following duties:

30           (1) The advisory council shall elect the chairman of the

1 advisory council.

2 (2) No later than January 1, 2020, and annually  
3 thereafter, the advisory council shall submit a report to the  
4 Health and Human Services Committee of the Senate and the  
5 Health Committee of the House of Representatives. The report  
6 shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations on the  
7 following matters:

8 (i) Practice guidelines for the diagnosis and  
9 treatment of PANDAS and PANS.

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

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

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

19 CHAPTER 5

20 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

21 Section 501. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect in 60 days.