

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1124 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, ARGALL, PHILLIPS-HILL, PITTMAN AND STEFANO, APRIL 20, 2020

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, APRIL 20, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 23, 1956 (1955 P.L.1510, No.500),
 2 entitled "An act providing for the prevention and control of
 3 communicable and non-communicable diseases including venereal
 4 diseases, fixing responsibility for disease prevention and
 5 control, requiring reports of diseases, and authorizing
 6 treatment of venereal diseases, and providing for premarital
 7 and prenatal blood tests; amending, revising and
 8 consolidating the laws relating thereto; and repealing
 9 certain acts," further providing for confidentiality of
 10 reports and records; and abrogating a regulation.

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

13 Section 1. Section 15 of the act of April 23, 1956 (1955
 14 P.L.1510, No.500), known as the Disease Prevention and Control
 15 Law of 1955, is amended to read:

16 Section 15. Confidentiality of Reports and Records.--(a)
 17 Except as set forth in subsection (b), State and local health
 18 authorities may not disclose reports of diseases, any records
 19 maintained as a result of any action taken in consequence of
 20 such reports, or any other records maintained pursuant to this
 21 act or any regulations, to any person who is not a member of the
 22 department or of a local board or department of health[, except

1 where].

2 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply as follows:

3 (1) If disclosure is necessary to carry out the purposes of
4 this act.

5 (2) If there is a declaration by the Governor of a disaster
6 emergency under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c) (relating to general
7 authority of Governor) related to a pandemic.

8 (c) State and local health authorities may permit the use of
9 data contained in disease reports and other records, maintained
10 pursuant to this act, or any regulation, for research purposes,
11 subject to strict supervision by the health authorities to
12 insure that the use of the reports and records is limited to the
13 specific research purposes.

14 Section 2. The provisions of 28 Pa. Code § 27.5a (relating
15 to confidentiality of case reports) are abrogated to the extent
16 they are inconsistent with the addition of section 15(b)(2) of
17 the act.

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.