
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 227 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY KOSIEROWSKI, HILL-EVANS, BOBACK, SANCHEZ,
SCHLOSSBERG, GUENST, HOWARD, FREEMAN, ISAACSON, O'MARA,
SCHWEYER AND McCLINTON, JANUARY 25, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 25, 2021

AN ACT

1 Providing for a universal maternal home visiting program; and
2 imposing powers and duties on the Department of Health.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Universal
7 Maternal Home Visiting Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

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

13 "Eligible families." Families who are eligible for home
14 visiting services under a maternal home visiting program.

15 "Maternal home visiting program." An evidence-based home
16 visiting model proven to improve child health and be cost-
17 effective.

1 Section 3. Universal maternal home visiting.

2 (a) Purpose.--It is the goal of the Commonwealth to offer
3 maternal home visiting programs universally to eligible
4 families.

5 (b) Home visiting plan.--Within 100 days of the effective
6 date of this subsection, the department shall establish a five-
7 year plan to offer evidence-based maternal home visiting
8 programs to eligible families. The department shall publish the
9 plan on its publicly accessible Internet website.

10 (c) Contents of plan.--

11 (1) The plan may include:

12 (i) Expansion of existing maternal home visiting
13 programs.

14 (ii) Proposed applications for Federal and
15 foundation grant funding.

16 (iii) Social impact bonds.

17 (iv) Other programs the department identifies that
18 would result in an efficient expansion of maternal home
19 visiting service offerings.

20 (2) The plan shall target expansion of maternal home
21 visiting programs by at least 20% per year.

22 (d) Department actions.--The plan shall detail actions that
23 the department may pursue without additional legislative action.
24 Within 60 days of the plan's publication on the department's
25 publicly accessible Internet website, the department shall
26 commence those actions.

27 (e) Action by General Assembly.--For aspects of the plan
28 that require additional action by the General Assembly, the
29 department shall include in the plan specific requests and
30 outlines of legislative action needed, including budget

1 requests.

2 Section 4. Effective date.

3 This act shall take effect in 60 days.