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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 409 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY GALLOWAY, N. NELSON, LEE, HILL-EVANS, THOMAS,  
SCHLOSSBERG, DRISCOLL, HOWARD, CIRESI, NEILSON, O'MARA,  
SCHWEYER, WARREN AND PISCIOTTANO, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An  
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public  
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in mental health:  
4 departmental powers and duties, commissioner of mental  
5 health, interstate compact, reciprocal agreements and  
6 research foundation, providing for mental health care  
7 services clearinghouse; and making an editorial change.

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

10 Section 1. Article XI heading of the act of June 13, 1967  
11 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, is amended to  
12 read:

13 ARTICLE XI

14 MENTAL HEALTH: DEPARTMENTAL POWERS AND DUTIES;

15 COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH; INTERSTATE

16 COMPACT; RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS; RESEARCH

17 FOUNDATION; MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

18 CLEARINGHOUSE

19 Section 2. Article XI of the act is amended by adding a  
20 subarticle to read:

1           (e) Mental Health Care Services Clearinghouse

2 Section 1151. Mental health care services clearinghouse.

3       (a) Establishment.--The department and the Department of  
4 Health, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall  
5 establish a central online clearinghouse to be made available on  
6 a publicly accessible Internet website maintained by the  
7 department. The publicly accessible Internet website, which  
8 shall be available no later than the effective date of this  
9 section, shall at a minimum include an online database of the  
10 following:

11           (1) Existing mental health care providers organized by  
12 county.

13           (2) Existing mental health care resources, including  
14 relevant nonprofit organizations, support groups and local  
15 hotlines organized by county.

16           (3) National hotlines and resources accessible through  
17 the Internet.

18           (4) Existing mental health care services covered under  
19 Medical Assistance and the Children's Health Insurance  
20 Program.

21           (5) Other relevant information.

22       (b) Accessibility.--The clearinghouse shall be easily  
23 accessible by school students, parents and the public.

24       (c) Resources and funding.--Participating State agencies:

25           (1) May utilize existing resources or clearinghouses  
26 available from other agencies to compile the information.

27           (2) Shall explore the possibility of Federal or private  
28 funding to support the clearinghouse.

29       (d) Quarterly update.--The department, in cooperation with  
30 the Department of Health and the Department of Education, shall

1 ensure that the clearinghouse is updated on a quarterly basis.

2 Section 3. This act shall take effect in one year.