

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 409 Session of 2021

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

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 9, 2021

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:

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

1 subarticle to read:

2 (e) Mental Health Care Services Clearinghouse
3 Section 1151. Mental health care services clearinghouse.

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

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

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

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

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

22 (5) Other relevant information.

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

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

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

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

30 (d) Quarterly update.--The department, in cooperation with

1 the Department of Health and the Department of Education, shall
2 ensure that the clearinghouse is updated on a quarterly basis.

3 (E) PROMOTION.--PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES SHALL PROMOTE <--
4 THE AVAILABILITY OF THE CLEARINGHOUSE. AT A MINIMUM, THE
5 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL NOTIFY PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOL
6 ENTITIES AND RELEVANT PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHEN
7 THE CLEARINGHOUSE IS MADE AVAILABLE.

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