

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL**No. 944** Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY E. NELSON, LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS, MARKOSEK,
R. BROWN, SANCHEZ, PISCIOTTANO, NEILSON, BURGOS, JOZWIAK,
SCHLEGEL CULVER, DUNBAR, GLEIM, ZIMMERMAN, FREEMAN, STRUZZI,
KINKEAD, GUENST, KINSEY, LEWIS DELROSSO, O'NEAL, RADER,
JAMES, DAVANZO, MUSTELLO, TOPPER, CRUZ, GILLEN, POLINCHOCK,
TOMLINSON, C. WILLIAMS, LABS, BONNER, QUINN AND SILVIS,
MARCH 17, 2021

SENATOR BROOKS, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, IN SENATE, AS
AMENDED, JUNE 21, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and
16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,
17 and commissions; providing for judicial administration; and
18 prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation
19 of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of
20 certain departments, boards and commissions shall be
21 determined," in powers and duties of the Department of Drug
22 and Alcohol Programs, further providing for powers and
23 duties.

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

1 Section 1. Section 2301-A of the act of April 9, 1929
2 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, is
3 amended by adding a paragraph to read:

4 Section 2301-A. Powers and duties.

5 The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs shall have the
6 power and its duty shall be:

7 * * *

8 (8.1) To require inpatient treatment facilities to
9 notify as appropriate, BY A METHOD CONSENTED TO BY THE <--
10 PATIENT, an emergency contact designated by a patient if the
11 patient leaves a treatment facility against medical advice,
12 provided that the patient has not revoked consent to notify
13 the emergency contact. Notification must occur immediately
14 and in no event later than 12 hours of a patient leaving
15 against medical advice. Treatment facilities shall ATTEMPT TO <--
16 NOTIFY THE EMERGENCY CONTACT AT LEAST ONCE AND develop
17 policies and procedures to implement this paragraph, which
18 shall include advising patients of notifications required to
19 be made by treatment facilities. The provisions of this
20 paragraph shall not apply where the treatment facility has
21 knowledge of or reason to know of allegations of domestic
22 abuse perpetrated upon the patient by the emergency contact.
23 THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE INTERPRETED TO HOLD THE TREATMENT <--
24 FACILITY LIABLE BEYOND ITS DUTIES THEREIN.

25 * * *

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.