
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2544 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY KAUFFMAN, RAPP, FREEMAN, RYAN, BOBACK, RADER,
IRVIN, WHEELAND, LONGIETTI, SAINATO, HERSHEY, DOWLING,
SANKEY, PENNYCUICK, M. MACKENZIE, STURLA, RIGBY, BRIGGS,
STAMBAUGH, STAATS, SCHWEYER, BERNSTINE, McNEILL, SCHLOSSBERG,
MEHAFFIE, THOMAS, DeLUCA, SANCHEZ, STEPHENS, SCHLEGEL CULVER
AND R. BROWN, APRIL 27, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 27, 2022

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Outpatient Renal Dialysis Facility Qualified
2 Staff Retention and Recruitment Program within the Department
3 of Human Services; and making an appropriation.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Dialysis
8 Frontline Worker Relief Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative findings.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the
12 Commonwealth's health care infrastructure and the dedicated
13 citizens who care for the sick, the elderly and the infirm.

14 (2) Those who provide life-sustaining renal dialysis
15 services to our friends, neighbors and constituents are a
16 critical segment of frontline health care professionals.

1 (3) These approximately 5,000 individuals are vital
2 frontline workers who staff outpatient, home and acute renal
3 dialysis facilities across this Commonwealth and are
4 deserving of relief and parity along with other health care
5 workers.

6 (4) Outpatient renal dialysis staff should receive
7 support equivalent to that provided to other frontline health
8 care workers under Article I-J of the act of April 9, 1929
9 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code.

10 Section 3. Definitions.

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

14 "CMS." The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

15 "Department." The Department of Human Services of the
16 Commonwealth.

17 "Outpatient renal dialysis facility." A health care facility
18 licensed under the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known
19 as the Health Care Facilities Act, and in compliance with CMS
20 regulations that provides renal dialysis services on an
21 outpatient basis. The term shall include all CMS-certified
22 outpatient renal dialysis facilities not owned by a hospital or
23 the Commonwealth.

24 "Program." The Outpatient Renal Dialysis Facility Qualified
25 Staff Retention and Recruitment Program established under
26 section 4.

27 "Qualified staff." An employee of an outpatient renal
28 dialysis facility who provides direct patient care activities,
29 environmental services or clinical care services in a home or
30 acute setting or who provides acute treatments under contractual

1 arrangements within acute care hospitals.

2 Section 4. Program.

3 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish and
4 administer the Outpatient Renal Dialysis Facility Qualified
5 Staff Retention and Recruitment Program to provide payments to
6 qualified staff in accordance with this section.

7 (b) Payments.--Payments under the program shall be
8 equivalent to payments received by hospital qualified staff
9 under section 102-J of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343,
10 No.176), known as The Fiscal Code.

11 (c) Limitation.--A full-time qualified staff member shall
12 receive not more than \$3,000 for a payment under this section. A
13 part-time staff member shall receive a payment allocated by time
14 worked.

15 Section 5. Appropriation.

16 The sum of \$15,000,000 from the COVID-19 Response Restricted
17 Account is appropriated to the department for payments under
18 this act.

19 Section 6. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect immediately.