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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 386 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, KEARNEY, YUDICHAK,  
BREWSTER, COSTA AND COMITTA, MARCH 10, 2021

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REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 10, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for emergency addiction  
3 treatment; and imposing powers and duties on the Department  
4 of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

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

7 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
8 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 83

10 EMERGENCY ADDICTION TREATMENT

11 Subchapter

12 A. Preliminary Provisions

13 B. Program

14 SUBCHAPTER A

15 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

16 Sec.

17 8301. Short title of chapter.

18 8302. Definitions.

19 § 8301. Short title of chapter.

1 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Emergency  
2 Addiction Treatment Act.

3 § 8302. Definitions.

4 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
6 context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Department." The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs of  
8 the Commonwealth.

9 "Program." The Emergency Addiction Treatment Program  
10 established in section 8310 (relating to Emergency Addiction  
11 Treatment Program).

12 SUBCHAPTER B

13 PROGRAM

14 Sec.

15 8310. Emergency Addiction Treatment Program.

16 § 8310. Emergency Addiction Treatment Program.

17 (a) Establishment.--The Emergency Addiction Treatment  
18 Program is established in the Department of Drug and Alcohol  
19 Programs to provide addiction treatment in licensed long-term  
20 residential addiction treatment facilities, including licensed  
21 halfway houses, for individuals who are unable to obtain timely  
22 or appropriate treatment, as determined by the department, and  
23 to establish such treatment facilities. The program shall be  
24 administered by the department.

25 (b) Powers and duties of department.--In order to provide  
26 individuals seeking assistance with better and more timely  
27 access to drug and alcohol addiction treatment, the department  
28 shall:

29 (1) Maintain a toll-free telephone number to assist  
30 individuals seeking help for drug and alcohol problems. The

1 telephone number shall be posted on the department's publicly  
2 accessible Internet website and shall be posted or published  
3 by the department in other media as the department determines  
4 is necessary to reach as many individuals as possible.

5 (2) Provide assistance in accessing addiction treatment.  
6 The department may provide this service by contract.

7 (3) Develop and maintain a database identifying problems  
8 and patterns in accessing appropriate addiction treatment.

9 (4) Develop and provide a program to educate and counsel  
10 families with addiction problems on how to prevent and treat  
11 addiction.

12 (5) Prepare an annual report to the General Assembly on  
13 the activities described in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3),  
14 including recommendations for improving access to addiction  
15 treatment. The report shall be posted on the department's  
16 publicly accessible Internet website.

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