
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1172 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, MARTIN, CAPPELLETTI, YUDICHAK, J. WARD,
MUTH AND LANGERHOLC, MARCH 30, 2022

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 30, 2022

AN ACT

1 Providing for access to treatment for sexual assault survivors
2 and for duties of the Department of Health.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Sexual
7 Assault Emergency Services Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "County." A county of any class in this Commonwealth.

13 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

14 "Hospital." As defined in section 802.1 of the act of July
15 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities
16 Act.

17 "Registered nurse." A registered nurse, clinical nurse
18 specialist or certified nurse practitioner under the act of May

1 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), known as The Professional Nursing
2 Law.

3 "SANE program." A program that utilizes a sexual assault
4 nurse examiner for a forensic medical examination based in this
5 Commonwealth.

6 "Sexual assault." Any of the offenses specified in 18
7 Pa.C.S. Ch. 31 Subch. B (relating to definition of offenses).

8 "Sexual assault nurse examiner" or "SANE." A registered
9 nurse who completed additional education and training that meets
10 the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Education Guidelines
11 established by the International Association of Forensic Nurses
12 to provide comprehensive health care to survivors of sexual
13 assault.

14 "Sexual assault survivor." An individual who reports that
15 they have experienced sexual assault.

16 Section 3. SANE program for access to treatment for sexual
17 assault survivors.

18 In addition to the sexual assault emergency services required
19 under 28 Pa. Code § 117.52 (relating to minimum requirements for
20 sexual assault emergency services), a hospital may establish a
21 SANE program.

22 Section 4. Duties of department.

23 (a) List of SANE capabilities.--

24 (1) No later than 90 days after the effective date of
25 this section and updated on an annual basis, the department
26 shall publish a comprehensive list of each hospital, by
27 county, that provides SANE care on the department's publicly
28 accessible Internet website. The list shall include the
29 location and phone number for each hospital listed and when
30 applicable, the hospital's publicly accessible Internet

1 website.

2 (2) A hospital shall notify the department of changes to
3 the hospital's SANE capabilities within seven days of the
4 change. The department shall update the publicly accessible
5 Internet website to reflect a change by a hospital within
6 seven days of receipt from a hospital.

7 (b) Browsing history.--The department shall develop a
8 feature on the department's publicly accessible Internet website
9 that simultaneously deletes the user's Internet browsing history
10 and redirects the user to the web browser's home page. This
11 feature shall be a button affixed to the top-right of the web
12 browser and shall be added to each publicly accessible Internet
13 website pertaining to information or services for sexual assault
14 or domestic violence survivors.

15 (c) Funding.--The department shall make grant funding
16 available if sufficient funds have been appropriated for the
17 purpose of establishing and supporting infrastructure to
18 facilitate the delivery of sexual assault nurse examiner
19 services.

20 Section 5. Effective date.

21 This act shall take effect immediately.