

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1236 Session of  
2021

INTRODUCED BY QUINN, BURGOS AND ROZZI, APRIL 20, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, APRIL 20, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112),  
2 entitled "An act relating to the right to practice medicine  
3 and surgery and the right to practice medically related acts;  
4 reestablishing the State Board of Medical Education and  
5 Licensure as the State Board of Medicine and providing for  
6 its composition, powers and duties; providing for the  
7 issuance of licenses and certificates and the suspension and  
8 revocation of licenses and certificates; provided penalties;  
9 and making repeals," further providing for genetic counselor.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 13.4(c) of the act of December 20, 1985  
13 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, is  
14 amended to read:

15 Section 13.4. Genetic counselor.

16 \* \* \*

17 (c) Scope of practice.--

18 (1) A genetic counselor may provide genetic counseling  
19 to clients, which includes:

20 (i) Obtain and evaluate individual and family  
21 medical histories to determine genetic risk for genetic  
22 or medical conditions and diseases in a patient and other

1 family members.

2 (ii) Discuss the features, natural history, means of  
3 diagnosis, genetic and environmental factors and  
4 management of risk for the genetic or medical conditions  
5 and diseases.

6 (iii) Identify, order and coordinate genetic  
7 laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies as  
8 appropriate for the genetic assessment.

9 (iv) Integrate the genetic laboratory test results  
10 and other diagnostic studies with personal and family  
11 medical history to assess and communicate risk factors  
12 for genetic or medical conditions and diseases.

13 (v) Explain the clinical implications of genetic  
14 laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies and their  
15 results.

16 (vi) Evaluate the client's or family's responses to  
17 the condition or risk of the recurrence and provide  
18 client-centered counseling.

19 (vii) Identify and utilize community resources that  
20 provide medical, educational, financial and psychosocial  
21 support and advocacy.

22 (viii) Provide written documentation of medical,  
23 genetic and counseling information for families and  
24 health care professionals.

25 (2) When in the course of providing genetic counseling  
26 services to a client, if a genetic counselor finds any  
27 indication of a disease or condition that requires diagnosis  
28 and treatment outside the scope of practice defined in this  
29 section, the genetic counselor shall refer the client to a  
30 licensed physician or appropriate health care practitioner.

1           (3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to  
2 authorize a genetic counselor to diagnose[, test] or treat  
3 any genetic disease or condition or other disease or  
4 condition.

5       \* \* \*

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