

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1950 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, HENNESSEY, D. COSTA, JAMES, MURT, WARD, HARPER, READSHAW, A. HARRIS, O'NEILL, KAUFFMAN, MILLARD, BOBACK, DEASY, QUIGLEY, BAKER, WATSON, DIGIROLAMO, PHILLIPS-HILL, PICKETT, MARSHALL, GABLER, FREEMAN, KORTZ, WHEELAND, RADER AND GOODMAN, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 27, 1905 (P.L.312, No.218), entitled
 2 "An act creating a Department of Health, and defining its
 3 powers and duties," establishing the office of Chief Nursing
 4 Officer of the Commonwealth and providing for its powers and
 5 duties.

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

8 Section 1. Section 1(a) of the act of April 27, 1905
 9 (P.L.312, No.218), entitled "An act creating a Department of
 10 Health, and defining its powers and duties," is amended and the
 11 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

12 Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., (a) The Department of Health
 13 shall consist of a Secretary of Health, an advisory board [and],
 14 a Physician General and a Chief Nursing Officer of the
 15 Commonwealth as required under subsection (c.1).

16 * * *

17 (c.1) There shall be an office of Chief Nursing Officer of
 18 the Commonwealth within the administrative structure of the

1 department. The Chief Nursing Officer of the Commonwealth shall
2 be appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent
3 of the Senate, except the office shall remain vacant if the
4 secretary is a registered nurse. The department shall provide
5 adequate staff and other support as needed. The Chief Nursing
6 Officer of the Commonwealth shall be a graduate of an accredited
7 school of nursing and shall be a practicing nurse licensed by
8 the Commonwealth. The Chief Nursing Officer shall be a
9 registered nurse with an unencumbered license issued by the
10 Commonwealth who has at least ten years of working experience as
11 a registered nurse and who has an advanced degree in nursing or
12 public health. The Chief Nursing Officer of the Commonwealth
13 shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Chief Nursing
14 Officer of the Commonwealth shall:

15 (1) Advise the Governor and the secretary on health policy.

16 (2) Participate in the decision-making process of the
17 department on policies relating to all nursing and public
18 health-related issues and in the decision-making process of
19 other executive branch agencies as directed by the Governor.

20 (3) Review professional standards and practices in nursing
21 and public health which are related to matters within the
22 jurisdiction of the department and other executive branch
23 agencies.

24 (4) Consult with recognized experts on nursing and public
25 health matters which are within the jurisdiction of the
26 department and other executive branch agencies.

27 (5) Provide advice on nursing and public health issues to
28 the secretary and to other executive branch agencies.

29 (6) Coordinate educational, informational and other programs
30 for the promotion of wellness, public health and related nursing

1 issues in this Commonwealth and serve as the primary advocate
2 for these programs.

3 (7) Consult with experts in this Commonwealth and other
4 states regarding health care research, innovation and
5 development which relate to programs and issues of importance to
6 the department and the Commonwealth.

7 (8) Perform such other duties as directed by the Governor.

8 (9) When the secretary is not a nurse, serve as a voting
9 member of the State Board of Nursing. The Chief Nursing Officer
10 of the Commonwealth may provide a designee to serve in his or
11 her stead. The salary and other conditions of employment shall
12 be set by the Executive Board.

13 * * *

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