
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1210 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, COSTA, FONTANA, BREWSTER, WILEY, TEPLITZ,
SABATINA, FARNESE, BLAKE, DINNIMAN, YUDICHAK, BROWNE AND
HUGHES, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

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. Declaration of policy.

1 8303. Definitions.

2 § 8301. Short title of chapter.

3 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Emergency
4 Addiction Treatment Act.

5 § 8302. Declaration of policy.

6 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

7 (1) More than 219,000,000 prescriptions for opioid
8 painkillers were written in the United States in 2014.

9 (2) Sales of opioid painkillers generated more than
10 \$11,000,000,000 in revenue in 2009 and are expected to grow
11 to more than \$15,000,000,000 in 2016.

12 (3) This Commonwealth is in the middle of a major drug
13 epidemic, primarily driven by opioid painkillers and heroin.

14 (4) In 2013, there were more than 2,525 drug overdose
15 deaths in this Commonwealth.

16 (5) Heroin-related admissions to addiction treatment
17 programs in this Commonwealth increased by 17% in 2014. The
18 heroin problem is being driven by prescription drug
19 addiction.

20 (6) The widespread availability, overmarketing and
21 overprescribing of opioid painkillers have resulted in
22 increases in overdose deaths, emergency room admissions,
23 admissions to addiction treatment programs and crime, all of
24 which adversely impact State and local budgets.

25 (7) State and county funding for addiction treatment
26 programs is insufficient to handle the increased demand for
27 addiction treatment.

28 § 8303. Definitions.

29 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
30 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Department." The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs of
3 the Commonwealth.

4 "Program." The Emergency Addiction Treatment Program
5 established in section 8310 (relating to Emergency Addiction
6 Treatment Program).

7 SUBCHAPTER B

8 PROGRAM

9 Sec.

10 8310. Emergency Addiction Treatment Program.

11 § 8310. Emergency Addiction Treatment Program.

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

20 (b) Powers and duties of department.--In order to provide
21 individuals seeking assistance with better and more timely
22 access to drug and alcohol addiction treatment, the department
23 shall:

24 (1) Maintain a toll-free telephone number to assist
25 individuals seeking help for drug and alcohol problems. The
26 telephone number shall be posted on the department's publicly
27 accessible Internet website and shall be posted or published
28 by the department in such other media as the department
29 determines is necessary to reach as many individuals as
30 possible.

1 (2) Provide assistance in accessing addiction treatment.

2 The department may provide this service by contract.

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

5 (4) Develop and provide a program to educate and counsel
6 families with addiction problems on how to prevent and treat
7 addiction.

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

13 (c) Guidelines.--The department shall develop and forward to
14 the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the
15 Pennsylvania Bulletin guidelines for the implementation of the
16 program established under section 1203-B of the act of March 4,
17 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, and to
18 govern the eligible use of the fund by counties and other
19 entities or persons that provide addiction treatment services to
20 individuals in licensed long-term residential addiction
21 treatment facilities, including halfway houses.

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