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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1339 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, SCARNATI, PILEGGI, COSTA, ALLOWAY,  
ARGALL, BREWSTER, BROWNE, EICHELBERGER, ERICKSON, FOLMER,  
FONTANA, HUGHES, HUTCHINSON, KASUNIC, LEACH, MENSCH,  
RAFFERTY, ROBBINS, SMITH, SOLOBAY, TARTAGLIONE, VOGEL, WARD,  
WHITE, WOZNIAK AND YUDICHAK, APRIL 17, 2014

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REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, APRIL 17, 2014

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AN ACT

1 Requiring certain health care practitioners to disseminate  
2 information relating to Down syndrome; and imposing duties on  
3 the Department of Health.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Down Syndrome  
8 Prenatal Education Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

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

14 "Health care practitioner." A health care practitioner that  
15 provides prenatal or postnatal care or genetic counseling to  
16 expectant or new parents.

17 Section 3. Dissemination of information on Down syndrome.

1 (a) Requirement.--A health care practitioner that  
2 administers, or causes to be administered, a test for Down  
3 syndrome to an expectant or new parent shall, upon receiving a  
4 test result that is positive for Down syndrome, provide the  
5 expectant or new parent with educational information made  
6 available by the department under section 4.

7 (b) Compliance.--Delivery of information prepared by the  
8 department in accordance with section 4 at the time genetic  
9 results or diagnostic conclusions are provided shall constitute  
10 compliance with this section.

11 Section 4. Informational publications by department.

12 (a) General rule.--The department shall make the following  
13 available to health care practitioners:

14 (1) Up-to-date, evidence-based, printed information  
15 about Down syndrome that has been reviewed by medical experts  
16 and national Down syndrome organizations. The information  
17 provided shall include the following:

18 (i) Physical, developmental, educational and  
19 psychosocial outcomes.

20 (ii) Life expectancy.

21 (iii) Clinical course.

22 (iv) Intellectual and functional development.

23 (v) Treatment options.

24 (2) Contact information regarding First Call programs  
25 and support services, including the following:

26 (i) Information hotlines specific to Down syndrome.

27 (ii) Relevant resource centers or clearinghouses.

28 (iii) National and local Down syndrome  
29 organizations, such as:

30 (A) The Jerome Lejeune Foundation USA.

- 1 (B) Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania.
- 2 (C) Pennsylvania Early Intervention.
- 3 (D) Other relevant education and support
- 4 programs.

5 (b) Additional dissemination.--The department shall post the  
6 information under subsection (a) on its publicly accessible  
7 Internet website.

8 (c) Form.--The information provided under this section shall  
9 be culturally and linguistically appropriate for the intended  
10 recipients of the information.

11 Section 5. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect in 60 days.