
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 889 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD, J. WARD, SANTARSIERO, DILLON, FONTANA,
BREWSTER, SCHWANK AND CAPPELLETTI, AUGUST 16, 2023

REFERRED TO AGING AND YOUTH, AUGUST 16, 2023

AN ACT

1 Providing for sunscreen and sun-protective measures in schools
2 and youth camps.

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 Reducing UV
7 Exposure in Children Act.

8 Section 2. Findings and declarations.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) It is a high priority to ensure that children use
11 sunscreen and sun-protective clothing when outdoors. Children
12 are being exposed to UV radiation due to suboptimal sunscreen
13 use and high rates of sunburning and are therefore at risk of
14 excessive UV exposure which could lead to skin cancer
15 development.

16 (2) News outlets have reported that some schools do not
17 allow children to bring or use sunscreen without a
18 prescription due to medication bans and fears of legal

1 ramifications.

2 (3) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
3 believes that school policies that prohibit hats or student
4 possession of sunscreen can create barriers to the use of
5 important sun protection methods.

6 (4) The United States Preventive Services Task Force
7 recommends educating children, adolescents and young adults
8 on the dangers of sun exposure to reduce the risk of skin
9 cancer.

10 (5) It is in the public's interest that schools set
11 policies that include education on sun exposure and encourage
12 our youths to use sun protection, including sunscreen and
13 sun-protective clothing.

14 Section 3. Definitions.

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

18 "Operator." The chief administrator or principal of a school
19 or youth camp.

20 "School." A school in a school district, charter school,
21 regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit
22 or career and technical school in this Commonwealth.

23 "Youth camp." An entity that exists for the primary purposes
24 of providing outdoor living experiences for children and youth
25 through an organized program with social, recreational or
26 educational objectives.

27 Section 4. Sun-protective measures in schools and youth camps.

28 (a) School.--A student may possess and use a topical
29 sunscreen product while on school property or at a school-
30 sponsored event or activity without a physician's note or

1 prescription if the product is regulated by the United States
2 Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use for the
3 purpose of limiting ultraviolet light-induced skin damage.

4 (b) Youth camp.--A participant in a youth camp may possess
5 and use a topical sunscreen product while attending a youth camp
6 without a physician's note or prescription if the product is
7 regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration for
8 over-the-counter use for the purpose of limiting ultraviolet
9 light-induced skin damage.

10 (c) Application.--A school district or youth camp operator
11 may allow school or youth camp personnel to assist students in
12 applying a topical sunscreen product with parental permission.

13 (d) Liability.--School or youth camp personnel may not be
14 held liable in a criminal action or for civil damages for
15 application of a topical sunscreen product if the topical
16 sunscreen product is available to and used by the student or
17 youth camp participant in accordance with this section.

18 (e) Sun-protective clothing.--Each school or youth camp
19 shall allow for outdoor use articles of sun-protective clothing,
20 including, but not limited to, hats. A school or youth camp may
21 set a policy relating to the type of sun-protective clothing,
22 including, but not limited to, hats, that will be allowed to be
23 used outdoors under this section. Specific clothing and hats
24 determined by school or youth camp personnel to be inappropriate
25 apparel may be prohibited by the dress code policy.

26 Section 5. Sun-Safe Education.

27 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all schools may
28 incorporate instruction in the common school grades four through
29 twelve utilizing existing, free resources on skin cancer
30 prevention. The instruction shall be provided in an age-

1 appropriate manner and shall include the following components:

2 (1) The basic facts about skin cancer, including the
3 negative impact of human exposure to ultraviolet radiation
4 obtained through sunburns and indoor tanning.

5 (2) A comprehensive set of strategies and behaviors to
6 reduce the risk of contracting skin cancer, including the use
7 of sunscreen and sun-protective clothing.

8 Section 6. Effective date.

9 This act shall take effect in 60 days.