

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1117 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY RIVERA, WEBSTER, MADDEN, GIRAL, HOWARD, WAXMAN,
HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, SCHLOSSBERG, D. WILLIAMS, MAYES,
SANCHEZ, KAZEEM, BRENNAN, NEILSON AND KHAN, APRIL 3, 2025

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 8, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and
16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,
17 and commissions; providing for judicial administration; and
18 prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation
19 of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of
20 certain departments, boards and commissions shall be
21 determined," in powers and duties of the Department of Drug
22 and Alcohol Programs, further providing for powers and
23 duties.

24 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
25 hereby enacts as follows:

26 Section 1. Section 2301-A introductory paragraph, (1), (2),
27 (4), (5), (7) and (8) of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177,

No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, are amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to read:
Section 2301-A. Powers and duties.

(a) Duties.--The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs shall have the power and its duty shall be:

(1) To develop and adopt a State plan for the control, prevention, intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, research, education and training aspects of [drug and alcohol abuse and dependence problems] substance use disorder. The State plan shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for:

(i) Coordination of the efforts of all State agencies in the control, prevention, intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, research, education and training aspects of [drug and alcohol abuse and dependence problems] substance use disorder so as to avoid duplications and inconsistencies in the efforts of the agencies.

(ii) Coordination of all health and rehabilitation efforts to deal with the [problem] challenges of [drug and alcohol abuse and dependence] substance use disorder, including, but not limited to, those relating to SUPPORT <-- SERVICES INCLUDED UNDER vocational rehabilitation, [manpower] workforce development and training, senior citizens, law enforcement assistance, parole and probation systems, jails and prisons, health research facilities, [mental retardation facilities] intellectual disability or autism diagnosis and community mental health centers, juvenile delinquency, health professions, educational assistance, hospital and medical facilities,

1 social security, community health services, education
2 professions development, higher education, Commonwealth
3 employees health benefits, economic opportunity,
4 comprehensive health planning, elementary and secondary
5 education, highway safety and the civil service laws.

6 (iii) Encouragement of the formation of local
7 agencies and local coordinating councils, promotion of
8 cooperation and coordination among such groups and
9 encouragement of communication of ideas and
10 recommendations from such groups to the Pennsylvania
11 Advisory Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

12 (iv) Development of model [drug and alcohol abuse
13 and dependence] substance use disorder control plans for
14 local government, utilizing the concepts incorporated in
15 the State plan. The model plans shall be reviewed on a
16 periodic basis, but not less than once a year, and
17 revised to keep them current. The model plans shall
18 specify how all types of community resources and existing
19 Federal and Commonwealth legislation may be utilized.

20 (v) Assistance and consultation to local
21 governments, public and private agencies, institutions
22 and organizations and individuals with respect to the
23 prevention and treatment of [drug and alcohol abuse and
24 dependence] substance use disorder, including
25 coordination of programs among them.

26 (vi) Cooperation with organized medicine to
27 disseminate medical guidelines for the use of drugs and
28 controlled substances in medical practice.

29 (vii) Coordination of research, scientific
30 investigations, experiments and studies relating to the

1 cause, epidemiology, sociological aspects, toxicology,
2 pharmacology, chemistry, effects on health, dangers to
3 public health, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of
4 [drug and alcohol abuse and dependence] substance use
5 disorder.

6 (viii) Investigation of methods for the more precise
7 detection and determination of alcohol and controlled
8 substances in urine and blood samples and by other means,
9 and publication on a current basis of uniform methodology
10 for such detections and determinations.

11 (ix) Any information obtained through scientific
12 investigation or research conducted pursuant to this act
13 shall be used in ways so that no name or identifying
14 characteristics of any person shall be divulged without
15 the approval of the department and the consent of the
16 person concerned. Persons engaged in research pursuant to
17 this section shall protect the privacy of individuals who
18 are the subject of such research by withholding from all
19 persons not connected with the conduct of such research
20 the names or other identifying characteristics of such
21 individuals. Persons engaged in the research shall
22 protect the privacy of such individuals and may not be
23 compelled in any State, civil, criminal, administrative,
24 legislative or other proceeding to identify such
25 individuals.

26 (x) Establishment of training programs for
27 professional and nonprofessional personnel with respect
28 to [drug and alcohol abuse and dependence] substance use
29 disorder, including the encouragement of such programs by
30 local governments.

1 (xi) Development of a model curriculum, including
2 the provision of relevant data and other information, for
3 utilization by elementary and secondary schools for
4 instructing children and for parent-teachers'
5 associations, adult education centers, private citizen
6 groups or other State and local sources for instruction
7 of parents and other adults about [drug and alcohol abuse
8 and dependence] substance use disorder.

9 (xii) Preparation of a broad variety of educational,
10 prevention and intervention material for use in all
11 media, to reach all segments of the population, that can
12 be utilized by public and private agencies, institutions
13 and organizations in educational programs with respect to
14 [drug and alcohol abuse and dependence] substance use
15 disorder.

16 (xiii) Establishment of educational courses,
17 including the provision of relevant data and other
18 information on the causes and effects of and treatment
19 for [drug and alcohol abuse and dependence] substance use
20 disorder, for law enforcement officials, including
21 prosecuting attorneys, court personnel, the judiciary,
22 probation and parole officers, correctional officers and
23 other law enforcement personnel, welfare, vocational
24 rehabilitation and other State and local officials, who
25 come in contact with [drug abuse and dependence problems]
26 individuals who may have substance use disorders.

27 (xiv) Recruitment, training, organization and
28 employment of professional and other persons, including
29 [former drug and alcohol abusers and dependent persons]
30 individuals in recovery from substance use disorders, to

1 organize and participate in programs of public education.

2 (xv) Treatment and [rehabilitation] supportive
3 services for male and female juveniles and adults who are
4 charged with, convicted of or serving a criminal sentence
5 for any criminal offense under the laws of this
6 Commonwealth. Provision of similar services shall be made
7 for juveniles adjudged to be delinquent, dependent or
8 neglected. These services shall include, but are not
9 limited to, emergency medical services, inpatient
10 services and [intermediate care, rehabilitative]
11 supportive and outpatient services.

12 (xvi) Giving priority to developing [community-based
13 drug or alcohol abuse] substance use disorder treatment
14 services in a cooperative manner among State and local
15 governmental agencies and departments and public and
16 private agencies, institutions and organizations.
17 Consideration shall be given to supportive medical care,
18 services or residential facilities for [drug or alcohol
19 dependent persons for whom treatment has repeatedly
20 failed and for whom recovery is unlikely] individuals
21 with substance use disorders.

22 (xvii) Establishment of a system of emergency
23 medical services for persons voluntarily seeking
24 treatment, for persons admitted and committed to
25 treatment facilities according to the procedural
26 admission and commitment provisions of the act of July 9,
27 1976 (P.L.817, No.143), known as the Mental Health
28 Procedures Act, and for persons charged with a crime
29 under Pennsylvania law. Upon the establishment of such
30 emergency medical services, the Department of Drug and

1 Alcohol Programs, by regulation, shall require that
2 appropriate emergency medical services be made available
3 to all [drug and alcohol abusers] individuals with
4 substance use disorders who are arrested for a crime
5 under Pennsylvania law.

6 (xviii) Providing standards for the approval by the
7 relevant State agency for all private and public
8 treatment and [rehabilitative] supportive facilities,
9 which may include, but are not limited to, State
10 hospitals and institutions, public and private general
11 hospitals, community mental health centers or their
12 contracting agencies and public and private [drug or
13 alcohol dependence and drug and alcohol abuse and
14 dependence treatment and rehabilitation] substance use
15 disorder centers. The standards shall prohibit private
16 and public substance use disorder treatment [and
17 rehabilitation] facilities from denying [addiction]
18 treatment to an individual solely due to a negative
19 result on a drug test.

20 (xix) Grants and contracts for the prevention,
21 intervention and treatment of [drug and alcohol
22 dependence] substance use disorder. The grants and
23 contracts may include assistance to local governments and
24 public and private agencies, institutions and
25 organizations for prevention, intervention, treatment,
26 rehabilitation, research, education and training aspects
27 of [the drug and alcohol abuse and dependence problems]
28 substance use disorder with the Commonwealth. Any grant
29 made or contract entered into by a department or agency
30 shall be pursuant to the functions allocated to that

department or agency by the State plan.

(xx) Preparation of general regulations for and operation of programs supported with assistance.

(xxi) Establishment of priorities for deciding allocation of the funds.

(xxii) Review the administration and operation of programs, including the effectiveness of such programs in meeting the purposes for which they are established and operated, and make annual reports of the findings.

(xxiii) Evaluate the programs and projects carried out and disseminate the results of such evaluations.

(xxiv) Establish such advisory committees as deemed necessary to assist the department in fulfilling its responsibilities.

(2) In developing the State plan initially, and prior to its amendment [annually] at least every ~~four~~ THREE years, to <-- hold a public hearing at least 30 days prior to the adoption of the initial State plan and subsequent amendments and to afford all interested persons an opportunity to present their views either orally or in writing. The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, through its staff, shall consult and collaborate with appropriate Federal, State and local departments, boards, agencies and governmental units, and with appropriate public and private agencies, institutions, groups and organizations. Otherwise, the promulgation of the State plan shall conform to the procedure contained in the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the Commonwealth Documents Law.

* * *

(4) To gather and publish statistics pertaining to [drug

1 and alcohol abuse and dependence] substance use disorder and
2 promulgate regulations, specifying uniform statistics to be
3 obtained, records to be maintained and reports to be
4 submitted by public and private departments, agencies,
5 organizations, practitioners and other persons with respect
6 to [drug and alcohol abuse and dependence] substance use
7 disorder and related [problems] challenges. Such statistics
8 and reports shall not reveal the identity of any [patient or
9 drug or alcohol-dependent person] individuals receiving
10 services or other confidential information.

11 (5) To establish an information center, which will
12 attempt to gather and contain all available published and
13 unpublished data and information on the problems of [drug and
14 alcohol abuse and dependence] substance use disorder. All
15 Commonwealth departments and agencies shall send to the
16 Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs any data and
17 information pertinent to the cause, prevention, diagnosis and
18 treatment of [drug and alcohol abuse and dependence]
19 substance use disorder and the toxicology and pharmacology
20 effects on the health of [drug and alcohol abusers]
21 individuals with substance use disorders and danger to the
22 public health of alcohol, drugs and controlled substances.
23 The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs shall make such
24 data and information widely available.

25 * * *

26 (7) As follows:

27 (i) To submit an annual report to the General
28 Assembly which shall:

29 (A) Specify the actions taken, services provided
30 and funds expended, including an evaluation of their

effectiveness.

(B) Contain the current State plan.

(C) Contain the most recent quarterly evaluations by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs of the information specified under paragraph (8.2)(i).

(D) Specify the actions taken in accordance with section 2303-A.

(ii) To submit additional reports as requested by the General Assembly and recommendations to further the prevention, treatment and control of [drug and alcohol abuse and dependence] substance use disorder.

(8) To make provisions for facilities in each city or region or catchment area which shall provide information about the total [Commonwealth drug and alcohol abuse and drug and alcohol dependency] substance use disorder treatment programs and services.

* * *

(b) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "substance use disorder" means a pattern of use of alcohol or other drugs leading to clinical or functional impairment.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.