

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 493 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY KAZEEM, GIRAL, SANCHEZ, VENKAT, PIELLI, KHAN,
HILL-EVANS, CIRESI, FREEMAN, GALLAGHER, FLEMING, OTTEN,
KENYATTA, GREEN AND WARREN, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), entitled "An
2 act relating to health care; prescribing the powers and
3 duties of the Department of Health; establishing and
4 providing the powers and duties of the State Health
5 Coordinating Council, health systems agencies and Health Care
6 Policy Board in the Department of Health, and State Health
7 Facility Hearing Board in the Department of Justice;
8 providing for certification of need of health care providers
9 and prescribing penalties," in general provisions, repeals
10 and effective date, providing for acute care mental health
11 bed registry and referrals.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. The act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known
15 as the Health Care Facilities Act, is amended by adding a
16 section to read:

17 Section 901.1. Acute care mental health bed registry and
18 referrals.

19 (a) The department shall develop and administer a web-based
20 acute care mental health bed registry to facilitate the
21 temporary hospitalization and treatment of individuals who meet
22 the criteria for inpatient examination and treatment under

1 Article II or III of the act of July 9, 1976 (P.L.817, No.143),
2 known as the "Mental Health Procedures Act."

3 (b) The department shall make the bed registry accessible to
4 health care professionals and their designees who are treating
5 patients in need of mental health inpatient examination and
6 treatment and to participating facilities.

7 (c) The department shall design the bed registry to collect,
8 aggregate and display the information under subsection (d).

9 (d) The bed registry shall include all of the following
10 information:

11 (1) General descriptive information for each
12 participating facility, including contact information and the
13 type of treatment and services available at each
14 participating facility.

15 (2) Information on the number of acute care mental
16 health beds available at each participating facility, which
17 information shall be updated every eight hours.

18 (3) For each available acute care mental health bed at a
19 participating facility, the type of patient that may be
20 admitted.

21 (4) The level of security provided at each participating
22 facility.

23 (5) Any other information that may assist a health care
24 professional in identifying an appropriate acute care mental
25 health bed for an individual in need of inpatient examination
26 and treatment.

27 (e) The department shall design the bed registry to allow
28 health care professionals and their designees to search the bed
29 registry for an appropriate acute care mental health bed for an
30 individual in need of inpatient examination or treatment.

1 (f) To be eligible to access the bed registry, a facility
2 must:

3 (1) submit information specified under subsection (d) to
4 the department for inclusion in the bed registry; and

5 (2) permit the facility's contact information to be
6 monitored and accessed at any time in accordance with the
7 department's regulations promulgated under subsection (i).

8 (g) The department may contract with a third party to
9 develop and administer the bed registry.

10 (h) The department shall make information regarding the bed
11 registry accessible to the public but with a limited view for
12 the purpose of protecting confidential personal or medical
13 information. The information regarding the bed registry that is
14 available on a publicly accessible Internet website shall
15 include:

16 (1) Descriptive information relating to the location and
17 contact information for each participating facility.

18 (2) The number of available beds and types of services
19 available at each participating facility.

20 (3) The number of individuals on a waiting list to
21 receive services.

22 (4) The estimated days until the next bed is available.

23 (5) The time and date that the bed registry was last
24 updated.

25 (i) The department shall promulgate regulations necessary to
26 implement this section.

27 (j) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
28 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
29 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

30 "Acute care mental health bed." A bed located at a mental

1 health facility that provides acute care mental health services.

2 "Bed registry." The acute care mental health bed registry
3 established under this section.

4 "Facility." A mental health facility.

5 "Health care professional." An individual licensed as a
6 physician, osteopath, physician assistant or certified
7 registered nurse practitioner.

8 "Mental health facility." A distinct part of a general
9 hospital licensed by the department under this act or a facility
10 that exclusively cares for the mentally ill and is licensed by
11 the Department of Human Services under the "Mental Health
12 Procedures Act" or Article X of the act of June 13, 1967
13 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the "Human Services Code," that
14 provides inpatient mental health examination and treatment. The
15 term does not include the emergency department of a general
16 hospital.

17 "Participating facility." A facility that satisfies the
18 conditions under subsection (f).

19 Section 2. Within 10 days of the development of the bed
20 registry under section 901.1 of the act, the Department of
21 Health shall transmit notice of the development of the bed
22 registry to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in
23 the next available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

25 (1) The following shall take effect immediately:

26 The addition of section 901.1(h) of the act.

27 This section.

28 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days
29 after the date of the publication of the notice under section
30 2 of this act.