

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 971 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY YAW, BREWSTER, STEFANO, MENSCH, SCHWANK, KILLION,
COSTA, K. WARD, DINNIMAN, BROWNE AND HAYWOOD,
DECEMBER 2, 2019

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DECEMBER 2, 2019

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 the regulation of pari-mutuel
18 thoroughbred horse racing and harness horse racing
19 activities, imposing certain taxes and providing for the
20 disposition of funds from pari-mutuel tickets; and
21 prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation
22 of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of
23 certain departments, boards and commissions shall be
24 determined," in powers and duties of Department of Health and
25 its departmental administrative and advisory boards,
26 providing for drug overdose death reporting.

27 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

28 hereby enacts as follows:

29 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known

1 as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding a
2 section to read:

3 Section 2127. Drug Overdose Death Reporting.--(a) The
4 Department of Health shall collect and maintain information
5 submitted by county coroners and medical examiners under
6 subsection (b).

7 (b) Each coroner or medical examiner in this Commonwealth
8 shall report in writing to the Department of Health, within five
9 days of certification, the death of a person resulting from a
10 drug overdose, giving the time and place of the death and the
11 circumstances relating to the death. The reports shall be made
12 on forms prescribed by the department. Each coroner or medical
13 examiner shall retain a copy of the reports in the coroner's or
14 medical examiner's office for a period of two years.

15 (c) The Department of Health shall use the information
16 obtained under this section to:

17 (1) Communicate concerns to regulators and facilitate
18 communication within the health care system and legal system
19 about issues that could threaten health and public safety.

20 (2) Prepare aggregate statistics relating to deaths
21 resulting from drug overdoses and include the statistics in the
22 annual report required under section 4(9) of the act of October
23 24, 2012 (P.L.1198, No.148), known as the Methadone Death and
24 Incident Review Act.

25 (d) The Department of Health shall maintain the
26 confidentiality of identifying information obtained relating to
27 the death of an individual, including the name of the
28 individual, guardians, family members, caretakers or alleged or
29 suspected perpetrators of abuse, neglect or a criminal act.

30 (e) An individual who, in good faith, provides information

1 or records to the Department of Health under this section shall
2 not be subject to civil or criminal liability as a result of
3 providing the information or records.

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