



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 179 Printer's No. 171

Prime Sponsor: Bartolotta
Committee: Health and Human Services

SYNOPSIS:

Requires the Department of Health (the "department") to develop and administer an Internet based acute care mental health bed registry to facilitate the temporary hospitalization and treatment of individuals who meet the criteria for inpatient examination and treatment under the Mental Health Procedures Act.

SUMMARY:

The registry shall be searchable by health care professionals and shall include:

- a. General descriptive information for each participating facility.
- b. Real-time information, updated daily, on the number of acute care mental health beds at the facility.
- c. The type of patient that may be admitted.
- d. The level of security provided.
- e. Any other information that may assist in identifying an appropriate acute care mental health bed.

In order to access the registry, a facility must submit the information described above and must arrange for the facility's contact information to be monitored and accessed at any time.

The department may contract with a third party to develop and administer the registry and shall promulgate appropriate regulations.

The department must publish notice of the completion of the registry in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

The bill defines various relevant terms including "Mental health facility" (which is defined as a unit of a general hospital licensed by the department under the Health Care Facilities Act or a facility that exclusively cares for the mentally ill and is licensed by the department under appropriate provisions of the Mental Health Procedures Act).

Effective Date: The requirement that the department publish notice of the completion of the registry in the Pennsylvania Bulletin will become effective immediately. All other provisions of the Act will take effect 60 days after publication of the notice.

BILL HISTORY:

Referred to HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Jan. 25, 2017

Prepared by: Cortez 10/12/2017