
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2474 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, MILLARD, MCGEEHAN, SWANGER, MURT, NEILSON,
FARINA, B. BOYLE, KORTZ, HELM, DAVIS, D. COSTA, COHEN,
R. BROWN AND WHITE, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

AN ACT

1 Providing for a health registry for the collection of health-
2 related data associated with unconventional gas well
3 drilling; and imposing duties on the Department of Health.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Marcellus
8 Shale Health Registry Act.

9 Section 2. Purpose.

10 The purpose of this act is to assess and evaluate the
11 potential adverse health consequences associated with the
12 drilling of unconventional gas wells in this Commonwealth.

13 Section 3. Definitions.

14 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

15 "Health care practitioner." As defined in section 103 of the
16 act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care
17 Facilities Act.

18 "Unconventional formation." A geological shale formation

1 existing below the base of the Elk Sandstone or its geologic
2 equivalent stratigraphic interval where natural gas generally
3 cannot be produced at economic flow rates or in economic volumes
4 except by vertical or horizontal well bores stimulated by
5 hydraulic fracture treatments or by using multilateral well
6 bores or other techniques to expose more of the formation to the
7 well bore.

8 "Unconventional gas well." A bore hole drilled or being
9 drilled for the purpose of or to be used for the production of
10 natural gas from an unconventional formation.

11 Section 4. Establishment of health registry.

12 The department shall establish, by July 1, 2015, a
13 population-based health registry for the collection of health-
14 related data associated with unconventional gas well drilling.
15 The registry shall consist of health-related data collected and
16 provided by health care practitioners.

17 Section 5. Reporting by health care practitioner.

18 All cases of health concerns, which have been diagnosed or
19 treated by a health care practitioner, that may be associated
20 with unconventional gas well operations must be reported to the
21 department on forms furnished by the department or through the
22 use of a health information exchange.

23 Section 6. Confidentiality.

24 Information regarding patient identity received by the
25 department shall be kept confidential and shall not be subject
26 to the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the
27 Right-to-Know Law. The department shall at all times respect the
28 privacy of patients and patient records, which shall be subject
29 to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
30 1996 (Public Law 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936).

1 Section 7. Regulations.

2 The department shall promulgate regulations necessary to
3 carry out this act within six months of the effective date of
4 this section.

5 Section 8. This act shall take effect immediately.