

authorized by the Insurance Department of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to transact business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or with any bank and trust company or trust company approved by the Department of Banking of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be designated as a deposit administrator. The deposit administrator may be given the power to administer the fund in its entirety including the power to receive and invest all moneys deposited in the fund and such other powers as are vested in the board. In addition to the options provided in the act upon retirement, disability, withdrawal or death of a contributor, the deposit administrator if an insurance company may provide additional options to the contributors or beneficiaries.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 11th day of August, A. D. 1967.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER

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No. 91

AN ACT

HB 979

Relating to gross physical neglect of, or injury to, children under eighteen years of age; requiring reports in such cases by examining physicians or heads of institutions to county public child welfare agencies; imposing powers and duties on county public child welfare agencies based on such reports; and providing penalties.

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

Section 1. Purpose.—The General Assembly intends that the reports required by this act shall result in protective services being made available on behalf of children about whom reports are made, in an effort to prevent further neglect or injury, to enhance their welfare and to preserve their family life whenever possible.

Section 2. Definitions.—As used in this act:

“Physician” means a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice medicine in this Commonwealth, and a medical or osteopathic intern or resident of a hospital.

“Institution” means a private or public hospital or other facility

providing medical diagnosis, treatment or care.

Section 3. Reports by Physicians.—Any physician, whose examination of a child less than eighteen years of age discloses evidence of gross physical neglect or injury not explained by the available medical history as being accidental in nature, or suffering from any wound or other injury inflicted by his own act or by the act of another by means of a knife, gun, pistol or other deadly weapon, shall immediately report in accordance with the provisions of this act. If such physician has examined the child pursuant to services as a member of the staff of an institution, he shall notify the person in charge of the institution, who shall make such report or cause it to be made.

Section 4. Reports; To Whom Made; Nature and Content.—An immediate oral report, followed by a report in writing, within forty-eight hours, shall be made to the public child welfare agency of the county in which the child lives.

The report shall contain:

(1) The names and addresses of the child and of his parents or other persons responsible for his care;

(2) The age of the child;

(3) The nature and extent of the child's injuries or physical neglect;

(4) Evidence of previous injuries and any other information which the physician believes may be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries or neglect, and the identity of the perpetrator, if known.

Section 5. Action by Child Welfare Agency on Receipt of Report.—Within forty-eight hours the county public child welfare agency shall investigate the circumstances of the neglect or injury and the home in which the child lives. It shall provide such child welfare services as are designed to protect the child and to preserve the family. When further action is required to protect the child, the county public child welfare agency shall file a petition with the Juvenile Court. If it appears that a criminal act has been committed, the county public child welfare agency shall so advise the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Section 6. Registers.—Each county public child welfare agency shall maintain and keep up-to-date a register of all cases reported to it under this act and including the final disposition thereof. Each county public child welfare agency shall transmit a copy of each such report to the Department of Public Welfare which shall maintain and keep up-to-date a statewide central register of all reports made in the State.

Section 7. Immunity from Liability.—Any physician or other person who participates in the making of a report pursuant to this act shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal.

Section 8. Evidence Not Privileged.—In any judicial proceeding resulting from a report pursuant to this act, the physician-patient privilege shall not apply in respect to evidence regarding a child's injuries or physical neglect or the cause thereof.

Section 9. Penalty.—Violation of any of the provisions of this act shall constitute a summary offense and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding three hundred dollars (\$300), and in default thereof, imprisonment not exceeding ninety days.

Section 10. This act shall take effect January 1, 1968.

APPROVED—The 14th day of August, A. D. 1967.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER

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No. 92

AN ACT

HB 243

Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P. L. 323), entitled "An act relating to counties of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," removing the limitation on the amount that the county commissioners may appropriate for agricultural extension work and authorizing appropriations for home economics extension work.

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

Section 1. Section 1936, act of August 9, 1955 (P. L. 323), known as "The County Code," amended August 22, 1961 (P. L. 1034) is amended to read:

Section 1936. [Agricultural] Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics.—The board of commissioners may [appropriate a sum not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)] make appropriations annually for agricultural and home economics extension work, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State University in encouraging improved methods of farm management and home economics and giving practical instruction and demonstrations in agriculture, for the purpose of improving and developing the agricultural resources of the county. An educational program will be conducted to include the body of scientific knowledge in agriculture, family living, and resource development and to encourage application of the same.

The money so appropriated shall be expended according to rules and regulations prescribed or approved by the board of commissioners. The board of commissioners may also, where practicable and desirable, provide offices in the county court house for headquarters for such cooperative work.

APPROVED—The 17th day of August, A. D. 1967.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER