

No. 2003-62

AN ACT

HB 999

Establishing the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Education Program; and providing for powers and duties of the Department of Health.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Education Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Department.” The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

“RSDS.” Reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome.

Section 3. Findings.

Reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, also known as complex regional pain syndrome, is a chronic neurological syndrome characterized by severe burning pain, pathological changes in bone and skin, tissue swelling and extreme sensitivity to touch. Untreated, RSDS can result in permanent deformity and chronic pain.

Section 4. Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Education Program.

(a) Establishment.—The department shall establish the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Education Program to promote public awareness of the causes of RSDS and the value of early detection, diagnosis and treatment of this disease.

(b) Duties of department.—The department shall:

(1) Establish a public education and outreach campaign via written materials and brochures to promote awareness of RSDS and enable individuals to make informed decisions about their health, including, but not limited to:

- (i) Cause and nature of the disease.
- (ii) Risk factors that contribute to the manifestation of the disease.
- (iii) All available treatment options, including risks and benefits of said options.
- (iv) Environmental safety and injury prevention.
- (v) Rest and use of appropriate body mechanics.
- (vi) Availability of RSDS diagnostic, treatment and outreach services in the community.
- (vii) Any other factors or elements that might mitigate the effects of this disease.

(2) Develop educational materials and brochures which shall be made available to consumers through State and local departments of health, hospitals, clinics and other health care providers.

(3) Develop relationships with health care providers and health-related community-based organizations to promote and coordinate professional education programs on RSDS for, including, but not limited to:

- (i) Research findings.
- (ii) Cause and nature of the disease.
- (iii) Risk factors, including, but not limited to, lifestyle, heredity and drug interactions.
- (iv) Diagnostic procedures and appropriate indications for their use.
- (v) All medical and surgical treatment options, including experimental and established drug therapies and the benefits and risks of each option.
- (vi) Environmental safety and injury prevention.
- (vii) Availability of RSDS diagnosis, treatment and support services in the community.

Section 5. Grant acceptance.

The department may accept grants, services and property from the Federal Government, foundations, organizations and other entities as may be available to carry out the provisions of this act.

Section 6. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 30th day of December, A.D. 2003.

EDWARD G. RENDELL