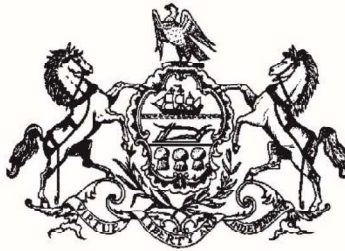


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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

HUMAN SERVICES, CHAIR

CAUCUSES

PENNSYLVANIA BLACK LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
PENNSYLVANIA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS
SOUTHEAST DELEGATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House Human Services Committee
FROM: Representative Dan Williams, Majority Chair, House Human Services Committee
DATE: September 22nd, 2026
RE: House Human Services Committee Voting Meeting

The House Human Services Committee will hold a Voting Meeting on Monday, September 28th, at 10:00 AM in room 60 East Wing. Our agenda will consist of the following along with any other business that may come before the committee:

House Bill 1345 P.N. 1534 (Cephas) An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, providing for medical assistance coverage for menopause treatments.

Senate Bill 115 P.N. 757 (Argall) An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in general powers and duties of the Department of Public Welfare, further providing for personal care home and assisted living residence administrators; and abrogating regulations.

House Resolution 612 P.N. 3866 (D. Williams and Heffley) A Resolution recognizing the month of September 2026 as "National Recovery Month" in Pennsylvania.

House Resolution 613 P.N. 3867 (Heffley) A Resolution recognizing October 20, 2026, as "Medium-chain Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency Day" in Pennsylvania.

House Resolution 615 P.N. 3876 (Howard) A Resolution recognizing October 15, 2026, as "White Cane Safety Day" in Pennsylvania.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please submit a Vote by Designation or Leave Request Form to the appropriate Chair's office prior to the start of the meeting, thank you.

DW/dl

**House Human Services Committee
Voting Meeting
60 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Monday, September 28, 2026
10:00 AM**

Agenda

House Bill 1345 (CEPHAS) An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, providing for medical assistance coverage for menopause treatments.

A04306 (D. Williams) aligns language with similar Medical Assistance coverage requirements and maintains the Department's authority to manage its program.

Senate Bill 115 (ARGALL) An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in general powers and duties of the Department of Public Welfare, further providing for personal care home and assisted living residence administrators; and abrogating regulations.

House Resolution 612 (D. WILLIAMS) A Resolution recognizing the month of September 2026 as "National Recovery Month" in Pennsylvania.

House Resolution 613 (HEFFLEY) A Resolution recognizing October 20, 2026, as "Medium-chain Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency Day" in Pennsylvania.

House Resolution 615 (HOWARD) A Resolution recognizing October 15, 2026, as "White Cane Safety Day" in Pennsylvania.

House Resolution 635 (MCCLINTON) A Resolution designating the month of October 2026 as "Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry - Chamber of the Year Month" in Pennsylvania.

And any other business that comes before the Committee

Adjournment

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1345 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY CEPHAS, HANBIDGE, GUENST, PIELLI, OTTEN, PROBST, WAXMAN, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, KENYATTA, RABB, D. MILLER, SANCHEZ, FRANKEL, SHUSTERMAN, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, RIVERA AND O'MARA, APRIL 30, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, APRIL 30, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance,
4 providing for medical assistance coverage for menopause
5 treatments.

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

8 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
9 as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to
10 read:

11 Section 443.16. Medical Assistance Coverage for Menopause
12 Treatments.--(a) Subject to Federal approval, the department
13 shall provide medical assistance coverage for hormonal and non-
14 hormonal treatments for the management of menopausal symptoms
15 for eligible and enrolled medical assistance recipients.

16 Coverage under this section shall include all of the following:

17 (1) Coverage for all drugs, devices and combination products
18 approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for

1 the treatment of menopausal symptoms.

2 (2) Coverage for behavioral therapy that assists individuals
3 in coping with menopausal symptoms.

4 (3) Coverage for therapy to treat menopause that has been
5 induced by a hysterectomy.

6 (b) The department shall seek a State plan amendment or
7 Federal waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
8 Services, if needed, for the provision of hormonal and non-
9 hormonal treatments for the management of menopausal symptoms
10 under the medical assistance program.

11 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
12 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
13 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Hysterectomy." A surgical procedure to remove a woman's
15 uterus, which may include removal of the cervix, ovaries or
16 fallopian tubes.

17 "Menopausal symptoms." Any of the following:

18 (1) Irregular menstrual periods.

19 (2) Hot flashes.

20 (3) Vaginal or bladder changes.

21 (4) Decreased fertility.

22 (5) Loss of bone density, including osteoporosis.

23 (6) Elevated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels.

24 (7) Sleep disturbances, including night sweats.

25 "Menopause." The permanent cessation of menstruation
26 resulting from the loss of ovarian follicular function,
27 characterized by the end of ovulation and a decline in estrogen
28 and progesterone production.

29 Section 2. If a necessary State plan amendment or Federal
30 waiver under section 443.16 of the act is approved by the

1 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Secretary of
2 Human Services shall transmit notice of the approval to the
3 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the next
4 available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

5 Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

6 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), the addition
7 of section 443.16 of the act shall take effect 30 days
8 following publication of the notice under section 2 of this
9 act.

10 (2) The addition of section 443.16(b) and (c) of the act
11 shall take effect immediately.

12 (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect
13 immediately.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HB1345 PN1534	Prepared By:	Ashlee Reick
Committee:	Human Services		(717) 705-1925
Sponsor:	Cephas, Morgan	Executive Director:	Dylan Lindberg
Date:	8/27/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Establishes Medical Assistance coverage for the treatment of menopause symptoms.

C. Analysis of the Bill

House Bill 1345 amends the Human Services Code to establish Medical Assistance coverage for hormonal and non-hormonal treatments to manage symptoms of menopause, provided that there's approval from the federal government.

Coverage includes:

- Drugs, devices, and products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of menopausal symptoms.
- Behavioral therapy to assist with managing symptoms.
- Therapy to treat menopause induced by hysterectomies.

If necessary to cover treatments, the Department of Human Services must apply for a state plan amendment or federal waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and transmit notice of approval to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the next Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Effective Date:

Section 443.16(a), which provides for MA coverage of menopausal symptoms, takes effect within 30 days following publication of the notice.

Section 443.16(b) and (c), which provide for the state plan amendment or federal waiver from CMS and definitions, and the remainder of the act take effect immediately.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

55 Pa. Code § 1101.61 provides the Medical Assistance program only covers medically necessary and compensable services.

55 Pa. Code § 1101.71(a) provides procedures for reviewing the utilization of, and payment for, Medical Assistance services, and providers must cooperate with Department audits and reviews concerning the validity of claims and the reasonableness and necessity of services.

Social Security Act § 1902(a)(10) establishes the Medicaid benefit structure. States must provide the mandatory Medicaid benefits and may elect additional optional benefits.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

n/a.

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1345

Sponsor:

Printer's No. 1534

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 11, by striking out "443.16" and
2 inserting

3 443.17

4 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 12 through 18; page 2, lines 1
5 through 5; by striking out "the department" in line 12, all of
6 lines 13 through 18 on page 1 and all of lines 1 through 5 on
7 page 2 and inserting

8 medically necessary treatments for menopause shall be
9 compensable under the medical assistance program for eligible
10 and enrolled medical assistance recipients.

11 Amend Bill, page 2, lines 8 and 9, by striking out "hormonal
12 and non-hormonal" and inserting

13 medically necessary

14 Amend Bill, page 2, line 9, by striking out "the management
15 of menopausal symptoms" and inserting

16 menopause

17 Amend Bill, page 2, lines 11 through 28, by striking out all
18 of said lines and inserting

19 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the
20 department's existing authority to manage the medical assistance
21 program to ensure the appropriateness, efficacy and efficiency
22 of treatments, including, but not limited to, determining
23 medical necessity or establishing clinical review criteria used
24 for utilization review of health care services.

25 (d) As used in this section, the term "menopause" means
26 permanent cessation of menstruation resulting from the loss of
27 ovarian follicular function.

28 Amend Bill, page 2, line 30, by striking out "443.16" and

1 inserting
2 443.17
3 Amend Bill, page 3, line 7, by striking out "443.16" and
4 inserting
5 443.17
6 Amend Bill, page 3, line 10, by striking out "443.16(b) and"
7 and inserting
8 443.17(b),
9 Amend Bill, page 3, line 10, by inserting after "(c)"
10 and (d)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1345 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY CEPHAS, HANBIDGE, GUENST, PIELLI, OTTEN, PROBST,
WAXMAN, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, KENYATTA, RABB, D. MILLER,
SANCHEZ, FRANKEL, SHUSTERMAN, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, RIVERA AND
O'MARA, APRIL 30, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, APRIL 30, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance,
4 providing for medical assistance coverage for menopause
5 treatments.

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

8 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
9 as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to
10 read:

11 Section ~~443.16~~ 443.17. Medical Assistance Coverage for
12 Menopause Treatments.--(a) Subject to Federal approval, ~~the~~
13 ~~department shall provide medical assistance coverage for~~
14 ~~hormonal and non hormonal treatments for the management of~~
15 ~~menopausal symptoms for eligible and enrolled medical assistance~~
16 ~~recipients. Coverage under this section shall include all of the~~
17 ~~following:~~

18 ~~(1) Coverage for all drugs, devices and combination products~~

A04306 Amendment in Context

~~approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of menopausal symptoms.~~

~~(2) Coverage for behavioral therapy that assists individuals in coping with menopausal symptoms.~~

~~(3) Coverage for therapy to treat menopause that has been induced by a hysterectomy. medically necessary treatments for menopause shall be compensable under the medical assistance program for eligible and enrolled medical assistance recipients.~~

~~(b) The department shall seek a State plan amendment or Federal waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, if needed, for the provision of hormonal and non-hormonal medically necessary treatments for the management of menopausal symptoms~~ menopause under the medical assistance program.

~~(c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

~~"Hysterectomy." A surgical procedure to remove a woman's uterus, which may include removal of the cervix, ovaries or fallopian tubes.~~

~~"Menopausal symptoms." Any of the following:~~

~~(1) Irregular menstrual periods.~~

~~(2) Hot flashes.~~

~~(3) Vaginal or bladder changes.~~

~~(4) Decreased fertility.~~

~~(5) Loss of bone density, including osteoporosis.~~

~~(6) Elevated low density lipoprotein cholesterol levels.~~

~~(7) Sleep disturbances, including night sweats.~~

~~"Menopause." The permanent cessation of menstruation resulting from the loss of ovarian follicular function,~~

A04306 Amendment in Context

~~characterized by the end of ovulation and a decline in estrogen and progesterone production.~~

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the department's existing authority to manage the medical assistance program to ensure the appropriateness, efficacy and efficiency of treatments, including, but not limited to, determining medical necessity or establishing clinical review criteria used for utilization review of health care services.

(d) As used in this section, the term "menopause" means permanent cessation of menstruation resulting from the loss of ovarian follicular function.

Section 2. If a necessary State plan amendment or Federal waiver under section ~~443.16~~ 443.17 of the act is approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Secretary of Human Services shall transmit notice of the approval to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the next available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

(1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), the addition of section ~~443.16~~ 443.17 of the act shall take effect 30 days following publication of the notice under section 2 of this act.

(2) The addition of section ~~443.16(b) and 443.17(b)~~, (c) and (d) of the act shall take effect immediately.

(3) The remainder of this act shall take effect immediately.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE AMENDMENT REPORT

HB1345 - PN1534 (Cephas, Morgan)

Establishes Medical Assistance coverage for the treatment of menopause symptoms.

A-04306 (Williams, Dan) (Committee)

Aligns language with similar Human Services Code coverage requirements. Maintains the Department's ability to manage the Medical Assistance Program.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 115 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, BROOKS, BOSCOLA, PENNYCUICK, LAUGHLIN,
J. WARD, BROWN, MASTRIANO, GEBHARD, PHILLIPS-HILL,
HUTCHINSON, SCHWANK, ROBINSON, DUSH, FARRY AND COLLETT,
JANUARY 22, 2025

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, MAY 6, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in general powers and
4 duties of the Department of Public Welfare, further providing
5 for personal care home and assisted living residence
6 administrators; and abrogating regulations.

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

9 Section 1. Section 213 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,
10 No.21), known as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a<--
11 ~~subsection~~ SUBSECTIONS to read: <--

12 Section 213. Personal Care Home and Assisted Living
13 Residence Administrators.--* * *

14 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
15 contrary, the department shall provide a skills competency
16 examination to individuals seeking employment as a direct care
17 staff person in either a personal care home or an assisted
18 living residence in lieu of successfully obtaining a high school
19 diploma or GED equivalency. The following shall apply:

1 (1) In addition to the duties required of a direct care
2 staff person, the examination shall include an assessment of
3 interpersonal communication skills, basic writing and reading
4 comprehension, understanding of cultural and diverse
5 communities, awareness of mental and behavioral health needs
6 and other competencies specific to working in a personal care
7 home or an assisted living residence.

8 (2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
9 permit a direct care staff person from dispensing,
10 distributing or administering medication.

11 (G) THE FOLLOWING APPLY REGARDING DIRECT CARE STAFF IN A <--
12 PERSONAL CARE HOME OR AN ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE:

13 (1) AN INDIVIDUAL SEEKING EMPLOYMENT AS A DIRECT CARE
14 STAFF PERSON IN EITHER A PERSONAL CARE HOME OR AN ASSISTED
15 LIVING RESIDENCE SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SUCCESSFULLY OBTAIN
16 A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED EQUIVALENCY IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

17 (I) IS A CITIZEN OF OR EDUCATED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY;

18 (II) LAWFULLY RESIDES IN THE UNITED STATES; AND

19 (III) IS OTHERWISE QUALIFIED AS THE DIRECT CARE
20 STAFF PERSON.

21 (2) IF AN INDIVIDUAL MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER
22 PARAGRAPH (1), THE PERSONAL CARE HOME OR ASSISTED LIVING
23 RESIDENCE SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR OR OBTAIN A
24 WAIVER UNDER 55 PA. CODE § 2600.19 (RELATING TO WAIVERS) OR
25 2800.19 (RELATING TO WAIVERS).

26 Section 2. The following shall apply:

27 (1) In order to facilitate the prompt implementation of
28 section 213(f) of the act, the Department of Human Services
29 shall promulgate temporary regulations that shall expire not
30 later than two years following the publication of the

1 temporary regulations. The Department of Human Services may
2 promulgate temporary regulations not subject to:

3 (i) Section 612 of the act of April 9, 1929
4 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of
5 1929.

6 (ii) Sections 201, 202, 203, 204 and 205 of the act
7 of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the
8 Commonwealth Documents Law.

9 (iii) Sections 204(b) and 301(10) of the act of
10 October 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the
11 Commonwealth Attorneys Act.

12 (iv) The act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181),
13 known as the Regulatory Review Act.

14 (2) The authority of the Department of Human Services to
15 adopt temporary regulations under paragraph (1) shall expire
16 two years after the effective date of this paragraph.
17 Regulations adopted after this period shall be promulgated as
18 provided by law.

19 Section 3. The provisions of 55 Pa. Code §§ 2600.54 and
20 2800.54 are abrogated insofar as they are inconsistent with the
21 addition of section 213(f) AND (G) of the act. <--

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	SB0115 PN0757	Prepared By:	Dylan Lindberg (717) 705-1925
Committee:	Human Services	Executive Director:	Dylan Lindberg
Sponsor:	Argall, David		
Date:	9/18/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Provides a pathway for an individual without a high school diploma to become direct care staff.

C. Analysis of the Bill

Senate Bill 115 amends the Human Services Code to require the Department of Human Services to create a competency based exam that an individual can take in lieu of having a high school diploma or GED equivalency to work in a personal care home or assisted living residence as direct care staff.

The exam must include:

- duties of direct care staff;
- interpersonal communication skills;
- basic writing and reading comprehension;
- understanding of cultural and diverse communities;
- awareness of mental and behavioral health needs;
- and any other competencies specific to personal care homes and assisted living residences.

The legislation itself does not allow a direct care staff person to dispense or administer medication.

If the individual is a citizen of or educated in another country, lawfully resides in the United States, and is otherwise qualified as the direct care staff person, then they are qualified to work in a personal care home or assisted living residence.

The facility does not need to apply for a waiver if the individual qualifies to be a direct staff person as provided for under this act.

Regulations

The Department of Human Services must promulgate temporary regulations that expire not later than two years following the publication of the temporary regulations.

55 Pa. Code §§ 2600.54 and 2800.54 are abrogated insofar they are inconsistent with this act.

Effective Date:

60 days.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

55 Pa. Code § 2600.54 and 55 Pa. Code § 2800.54 set the qualifications for direct care staff persons, which include having a high school diploma, GED, or active registry on the Pennsylvania nurse aide registry.

55 Pa. Code § 2600.19 and 55 Pa. Code § 2800.19 allow a personal care home or an assisted living residence to submit a waiver for regulations.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes).

SB1103 of 2024 was introduced and referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, where it received no further consideration.

HB2114 of 2024 was introduced and referred to the House Education Committee, where it received no further consideration.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 612 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY D. WILLIAMS, HEFFLEY, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, STAATS, VENKAT, McNEILL, MAYES, DEASY, GUENST, RIVERA, DOUGHERTY, HANBIDGE, NEILSON, HOWARD, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, BOROWSKI, SANCHEZ, TIBURCIO, OTTEN, MALAGARI, COOPER, GALLAGHER, MADDEN, SAMUELSON, PASHINSKI, M. MACKENZIE, PUGH AND CIRESI, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2026 as "National Recovery
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, More than 20.9 million Americans are recovering from
4 substance use disorders; and

5 WHEREAS, According to preliminary drug overdose data issued
6 in July 2026 by the Department of Health, 2,802 Pennsylvanians
7 lost their lives due to a drug overdose in 2025, and 850
8 overdose deaths have been reported thus far for 2026; and

9 WHEREAS, Substance use disorder impacts our friends, families
10 and neighbors; and

11 WHEREAS, The recovery process is complex, involving a range
12 of physical, emotional and social aspects; and

13 WHEREAS, Individuals in recovery frequently face numerous
14 challenges and obstacles, such as accessing quality treatment,
15 establishing social supports and addressing various other unmet
16 needs essential for improving their physical and mental well-

1 being; and

2 WHEREAS, Act 59 of 2017 directed the Department of Drug and
3 Alcohol Programs to establish regulations for the licensure of
4 drug and alcohol recovery houses that receive public funding or
5 referrals; and

6 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth currently has approximately 455
7 licensed recovery houses that seek to empower individuals to
8 sustain their recovery and provide an effective recovery
9 environment; and

10 WHEREAS, By recognizing this month as "National Recovery
11 Month," we demonstrate our support for the prevention, treatment
12 and recovery of individuals with substance use disorders; and

13 WHEREAS, Since 1989, "National Recovery Month" has been a
14 national observance during the month of September; therefore be
15 it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
17 month of September 2026 as "National Recovery Month" in
18 Pennsylvania; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That all Pennsylvanians participate in this
20 observance by recognizing those in recovery and providing
21 encouragement and resources so that individuals may continue on
22 the path of long-term recovery and inspire those still living
23 with substance use disorders to begin the recovery process.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0612 PN3866	Prepared By:	Ashlee Reick
Committee:	Human Services		(717) 705-1925
Sponsor:	Williams, Dan and Heffley, Doyle	Executive Director:	Dylan Lindberg
Date:	9/17/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Recognizes September 2026 as "National Recovery Month" in Pennsylvania.

C. Analysis of the Bill

House Resolution 612 recognizes September 2026 as "National Recovery Month" in Pennsylvania.

The resolution recognizes the following:

- There are more than 20.9 million Americans in recovery from substance use disorders.
- Data issued by the Department of Health in July 2026 indicated that 2,802 Pennsylvanians died as a result of a drug overdose in 2025, and there are 850 deaths from drug overdoses reported thus far in 2026.
- Act 59 of 2017 directed the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to promulgate regulations for the licensure of recovery houses.
- There are approximately 455 recovery houses licensed in PA.
- Individuals in recovery may face challenges, such as accessing treatment, establishing supports to sustain recovery, and more.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration first recognized September as "National Recovery Month" in 1989 to raise awareness about behavioral health and SUD.

Effective Date:

Upon adoption.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

Act 50 of 2010 amended the Administrative Code of 1929 to establish DDAP, further providing for the powers and duties of the department, which include developing a state plan for control, education, intervention, prevention, rehabilitation, research, and training relating to substance use disorders, and sets forth requirements for annual reports.

Act 59 of 2017 amended the Administrative Code to require DDAP to certify or license recovery houses that treat SUD, requiring state agencies or facilities funded by the state to only make referrals to certified or licensed recovery houses. It also establishes that recovery houses may only receive federal or state funding if the recovery house is certified or licensed by the department.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

2025-26 Session

- H.R. 290 (Heffley and Williams, D.) recognized September 2025 as "National Recovery Month" in PA, and the House Human Services Committee reported it out of committee by a unanimous vote of 26-0 on September 29, 2025. The PA House of Representatives adopted the resolution by a vote of 200-3 on October 1, 2025.

2023-24 Session

- H.R. 525 (Heffley) recognized September 2024 as "National Recovery Month" in PA. The PA House Human Services Committee reported it out of committee by a unanimous vote of 24-0 on September 30, 2024. The PA House adopted the resolution by a vote of 201-1 on October 2, 2024.
- H.R. 205 (Khan) recognized September 2023 as "National Recovery Month" in PA. The House Human Services Committee unanimously reported it out of committee by a vote of 25-0 on September 26, 2023. The PA House adopted the resolution by a vote of 201-1 on September 27, 2023.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 613 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, RIVERA, COOPER, ARMANINI, M. JONES,
STEHR, FLICK AND ROWE, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 20, 2026, as "Medium-chain Acyl-CoA
2 Dehydrogenase Deficiency Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Medium-chain Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase (MCAD)
4 deficiency is a rare inherited genetic disorder that prevents
5 the body from breaking down medium-chain fatty acids, which are
6 a type of saturated fats, and converting them into energy; and

7 WHEREAS, MCAD deficiency can cause problems with an
8 individual's metabolism and energy production; and

9 WHEREAS, This deficiency affects approximately 1 in 15,000
10 babies born in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, MCAD deficiency is tested as part of required
12 newborn screenings in all 50 states in the United States and is
13 present from birth and throughout one's life; and

14 WHEREAS, Vital organs that depend on energy signaling, like
15 the brain, heart and muscles, may stop working properly if MCAD
16 deficiency goes untreated, leading to a severe lack of energy;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Symptoms of MCAD deficiency can range from mild to

1 severe, including low or no energy, low blood sugar, muscle
2 weakness, reduced tolerance for exercise and vomiting; and

3 WHEREAS, While there is no cure for MCAD deficiency, there
4 are treatment options that focus on helping developing babies
5 maintain normal blood sugar levels; and

6 WHEREAS, Treatment includes eating more often throughout the
7 day, eating a diet high in carbohydrates and low in fat and
8 avoiding overexertion when sick or in recovery; and

9 WHEREAS, There are currently medical programs within this
10 Commonwealth focused on metabolic diseases in children at the
11 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of
12 Pittsburgh Medical Center; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October
14 20, 2026, as "Medium-chain Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency
15 Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
17 achievements and important work of Pennsylvania-based hospitals
18 in treating rare metabolic disorders and deficiencies and
19 acknowledge the importance of raising awareness around MCAD
20 deficiency in order to continue treatment research.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0613 PN3867	Prepared By:	Ashlee Reick (717) 705-1925
Committee:	Human Services	Executive Director:	Dylan Lindberg
Sponsor:	Heffley, Doyle		
Date:	9/17/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Recognizes Tuesday, October 20, 2026 as "Medium-chain Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency Day" in Pennsylvania.

C. Analysis of the Bill

House Resolution 613 recognizes October 20, 2026 as "Medium-chain Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency Day" in PA.

The resolution acknowledges the following:

- MCAD deficiency is a genetic disorder that prevents the body from breaking down medium-chain fatty acids, a type of saturated fats, and converting them into energy.
- 1 in 15,000 babies receive a diagnosis of MCAD deficiency.
- All 50 states test for MCAD deficiency in newborn screenings, and it lasts throughout the individual's life.
- MCAD deficiency may include symptoms such as low levels of blood sugar and energy, metabolic crises, feelings of weakness, and vomiting.
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center have programs focused on treating metabolic diseases, such as MCAD deficiency, in children.

Effective Date:

Upon adoption.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

- Act 36 of 2008 required tests to screen newborn children for diseases, including MCAD deficiency.
- Act 133 of 2020 added requirements for support services for newborn children with MCAD deficiency.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

There isn't similar legislation introduced in prior sessions.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 615 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY HOWARD, BOROWSKI, McNEILL, GREINER, RIVERA,
MARCELL, MENTZER, SANCHEZ, MALAGARI, D. WILLIAMS AND
PASHINSKI, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 15, 2026, as "White Cane Safety Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On October 6, 1964, the Congress of the United
4 States designated October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety
5 Day"; and

6 WHEREAS, Blindness and severe visual impairment affect
7 approximately 300,000 Pennsylvania residents; and

8 WHEREAS, Persons with impaired vision use travel aids such as
9 a white cane or dog guides to get around public streets and
10 sidewalks and places of public accommodation; and

11 WHEREAS, The travel aids, known as "White Canes," are
12 universally recognized as symbols representing vision loss; and

13 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a White Cane Law requiring drivers
14 of vehicles to yield the right-of-way to any totally or
15 partially blind pedestrian carrying a clearly visible white cane
16 or accompanied by a guide dog and take necessary precautions to
17 avoid injuring or endangering the pedestrian, including stopping

1 their vehicle; and

2 WHEREAS, Greater awareness of Pennsylvania's White Cane Law
3 leads to safer, more attentive driving in general, enhancing the
4 safety of all pedestrians, including children, elders and people
5 with disabilities; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October
7 15, 2026, as "White Cane Safety Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the
10 need to educate the public about the use of white canes and dog
11 guides to keep pedestrians with impaired vision safe and
12 independent.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0615 PN3876	Prepared By:	Ashlee Reick (717) 705-1925
Committee:	Human Services	Executive Director:	Dylan Lindberg
Sponsor:	Howard, Kristine		
Date:	9/17/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Recognizes Thursday, October 15, 2026 as "White Cane Safety Day" in PA.

C. Analysis of the Bill

House Resolution 615 recognizes October 15, 2026 as "White Cane Safety Day" in PA.

It acknowledges the following:

- On October 6, 1964, U.S. Congress passed legislation to designate October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day."
- There's approximately 300,000 Pennsylvanians with blindness or severe visual impairments.
- Individuals with blindness or severe visual impairments may utilize white canes to aide them while walking.
- § 3549 of Title 74 (Transportation) requires drivers of vehicles to yield the right-of-way to totally or partially blind pedestrians carrying a clearly visible white cane or accompanied by a guide dog. It also requires drivers to take precautions as needed to avoid endangering or injuring the pedestrian and, if necessary, stop the vehicle to prevent danger or injury to the pedestrian.
- Raising awareness for blindness or severe visual impairments, white canes, and laws for drivers when they see pedestrians with a white cane or guide dog can help to make drivers more attentive and safer, as well as enhance the safety for all pedestrians.

Effective Date:

Upon adoption.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

- Pub.L.88-628 designated October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day" in the U.S.
- Act 222 of 1955, also known as the PA Human Relations Act, and Act 51 of 1991 prohibit discrimination against blind individuals.
- Act 15 of 1999 required the Department of Labor & Industry to provide programs and services for individuals with blindness and visual impairments.
- § 3549 of Title 74 (Transportation) requires drivers of vehicles to yield the right-of-way to totally or partially blind pedestrians carrying a clearly visible white cane or accompanied by a guide dog. It also requires drivers to take precautions as needed to avoid endangering or injuring the pedestrian and, if necessary, stop the vehicle to prevent danger or injury to the pedestrian.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

2025-26 Session

- H.R. 312 (Howard) recognized October 15, 2025 as "White Cane Safety Day" in PA. The PA House Human Services Committee unanimously reported the resolution out of committee by a vote of 26-0 on September 29, 2025, and the PA House of Representatives adopted the resolution by a vote of 199-4 on October 8, 2025.

2023-24 Session

- H.R. 524 (Howard) recognized October 15, 2024 as "White Cane Safety Day" in PA. The House Health Committee unanimously reported the resolution out of committee by a vote of 25-0 on October 2, 2024. It did not receive further consideration in the House.
- H.R. 248 (Howard) recognized October 15, 2023 as "White Cane Safety Day" in PA. The House Transportation Committee reported it out of committee by a vote of 23-0 with two members listed as not voting. It did not advance further in the House.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 635 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY McCLINTON, VENKAT, GREINER, HOHENSTEIN, ISAACSON,
HAMM, T. DAVIS, PICKETT, McNEILL, STAATS, GUZMAN, SAPPEY,
MAYES, HILL-EVANS, GUENST, PROBST, SANCHEZ, DOUGHERTY,
HADDOCK, COOPER, RIVERA, NEILSON, GALLAGHER, PASHINSKI AND
D. WILLIAMS, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2026 as "Pennsylvania Chamber
2 of Business and Industry - Chamber of the Year Month" in
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
5 (PA Chamber) was founded December 16, 1916, by a group of more
6 than 100 business leaders from across this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, The mission of the PA Chamber is to advocate for
8 policies that create economic opportunities and to lead
9 Pennsylvania and its residents to greater prosperity; and

10 WHEREAS, Headquartered in Harrisburg, the PA Chamber is the
11 largest broad-based business association in Pennsylvania; and

12 WHEREAS, The membership of the PA Chamber comprises more than
13 13,000 businesses in each of this Commonwealth's 67 counties,
14 representing all industry sectors and all sizes of companies;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The PA Chamber represents nearly 50% of the private
17 workforce in this Commonwealth and helps its members understand

1 the complexities of Federal and State laws and regulations; and

2 WHEREAS, The PA Chamber brings a valuable perspective to
3 public policy debates; and

4 WHEREAS, The work of the PA Chamber has been helpful to the
5 General Assembly as we continue to work together on economic
6 development and job-creation issues; and

7 WHEREAS, The PA Chamber supports our Commonwealth's strong
8 workforce through various initiatives that promote career
9 readiness, internships, workforce participation and the
10 essential partnerships between employers and educational
11 institutions; and

12 WHEREAS, Organizations such as the PA Chamber have helped to
13 improve Pennsylvania's business climate, as evident in numerous
14 recent national rankings of state economies; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Chamber of Commerce awarded the PA
16 Chamber with a rating of "Accredited with Distinction," one of
17 only six state chambers in the country to reach this
18 achievement; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Association of State Chambers recently
20 selected the PA Chamber as the "2026 State Chamber of the Year";
21 and

22 WHEREAS, This award is the highest national honor for a state
23 chamber, reflecting the PA Chamber's hard work and effectiveness
24 in advocating for business interests in this Commonwealth and
25 helping create family-sustaining employment opportunities; and

26 WHEREAS, The PA Chamber has served as an influential voice
27 for Pennsylvania's business community for 110 years,
28 contributing greatly to this Commonwealth's economic growth and
29 vitality; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the

1 month of October 2026 as "Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
2 Industry - Chamber of the Year Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the
5 Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, 417 Walnut
6 Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17101.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0635 PN3928	Prepared By:	Ashlee Reick
Committee:	Human Services		(717) 705-1925
Sponsor:	McClinton, Joanna	Executive Director:	Dylan Lindberg
Date:	9/25/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Recognizes "Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry – Chamber of the Year Month" in Pennsylvania.

C. Analysis of the Bill

The resolution recognizes "Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry – Chamber of the Year Month" in PA, acknowledging the following:

- More than 100 business owners across PA worked to found the PA Chamber on December 16, 1916.
- The PA Chamber advocates for policies that provide economic opportunities and lead to greater prosperity for the state and Pennsylvanians.
- Membership includes more than 13,000 businesses in Pennsylvania's 67 counties.
- The PA Chamber represents nearly 50% of the private sector and helps many members understand federal and state laws, regulations, and rules.
- The General Assembly and the PA Chamber work together on economic development and job creation.
- The PA Chamber supports Pennsylvania's workforce through initiatives that promote career readiness, internships, participation in the workforce, and partnerships between employers and academic institutions.
- Organizations such as the PA Chamber help to improve Pennsylvania's economy.
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce awarded the PA Chamber with a rating of "Accredited with Distinction," one of six state chambers to receive such a rating.
- The National Association of State Chambers selected PA Chamber as the "2026 State Chamber of the Year."

It also requires that the PA Chamber receive a copy of the resolution at the address of 417 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

Effective Date:

Upon adoption.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

N/A.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

There wasn't similar legislation introduced in the prior sessions.

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