



HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE

VOTING MEETING

Tuesday, June 10th, 2025

10:00am

515 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, PA

1. Call to Order

2. Attendance

HB1442 PN1689 – (Borowski) An Act amending Title 16 (Counties) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in coroner, further providing for coroner's investigation and providing for sudden unexpected death in epilepsy.

Amendment A00781 (Borowski) Clarifies SUDEP is a part of a Coroner's Investigation.

HB1527 PN1784 – (Davidson) An Act amending the act of July 7, 2017 (P.L.285, No.14), known as the Rare Disease Advisory Council Act, further providing for expiration.

HR249 PN1836 – (Rapp) A Resolution designating the week of September 21 through 28, 2025, as "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Research and Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania to increase awareness and understanding of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis to support improved diagnosis and treatment.

HR251 PN1839 – (Rapp) A Resolution recognizing October 24, 2025, as "World Polio Day" in Pennsylvania.

3. Any other business that may come before the committee.

4. Adjournment

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HB1442 PN1689	Prepared By:	Dylan Lindberg
Committee:	Health		(717) 705-1875,6240
Sponsor:	Borowski, Lisa	Executive Director:	Erika Fricke
Date:	5/15/2025		

A. Brief Concept

Requires coroners to investigate if a death was a Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP).

C. Analysis of the Bill

House Bill 1442 amends Title 16 Pa.C.S. (Counties) to address the handling of deaths caused by Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP).

If a coroner encounters a sudden, unexplained death involving a person diagnosed with epilepsy, they must conduct an investigation or perform an autopsy.

Every autopsy must include an assessment of whether a seizure or epilepsy was the cause of death.

If the coroner concludes that the death aligns with known or suspected SUDEP, they must note this on the death certificate and provide the deceased's next of kin with contact information for an external organization that tracks and studies SUDEP cases.

Definition of SUDEP

SUDEP is defined as the sudden, unexpected death of an individual with a known epilepsy diagnosis that is not attributed to trauma, drowning, status epilepticus, or other known causes. A SUDEP determination is considered "definite" when clinical criteria are met, and an autopsy finds no other cause of death, such as stroke, heart attack, or drug intoxication, although there may be evidence of a seizure.

Effective Date:

60 days.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

CHAPTER 139 of Title 16 Pa.C.S. (Counties) requires coroners to determine if a death needs further investigation or if an autopsy is needed. Under House Bill 1442, the sudden and unexpected deaths of a person diagnosed with epilepsy would automatically require an investigation or an autopsy. In addition, each autopsy conducted would require the coroner to check for SUDEP.

Statute defines "coroner" as an elected or appointed coroner or an elected or appointed medical examiner.

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

HB 2549 of 2023 was reported from the House Health Committee unanimously, where it did not receive further consideration.

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1442

Sponsor:

Printer's No. 1689

1 Amend Bill, page 2, line 4, by striking out "autopsy" and

2 inserting

3 investigation

4 Amend Bill, page 2, line 8, by striking out "autopsy" and

5 inserting

6 investigation

7 Amend Bill, page 2, line 9, by striking out "known" and

8 inserting

9 SUDEP

10 Amend Bill, page 2, lines 24 and 25, by striking out "causes"

11 in line 24 and all of line 25 and inserting

12 structural causes.

13 Amend Bill, page 2, lines 28 and 29, by striking out ",

14 although there may be evidence of a seizure"

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1442 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY BOROWSKI, FLOOD, HILL-EVANS, DIAMOND, OLSOMMER,
VENKAT, FREEMAN, GIRAL, CERRATO, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, SANCHEZ,
WARREN, CURRY AND GREEN, MAY 12, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 13, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 16 (Counties) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in coroner, further providing for coroner's
3 investigation and providing for sudden unexpected death in
4 epilepsy.

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

7 Section 1. Section 13918(a) of Title 16 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:
9 § 13918. Coroner's investigation.

10 (a) Duties.--The coroner having a view of the body shall
11 investigate the facts and circumstances concerning a death that
12 appears to have happened within the county, notwithstanding
13 where the cause of the death may have occurred, for the purpose
14 of determining if an autopsy or inquest should be conducted in
15 the following cases:

16 * * *

17 (12) A sudden unexplained death in a person diagnosed
18 with epilepsy.

1 * * *

2 Section 2. Title 16 is amended by adding a section to read:

3 § 13921.1. Sudden unexpected death in epilepsy.

4 (a) Inquiry.--An autopsy conducted by a coroner in this
5 Commonwealth shall include an inquiry to determine whether the
6 death of the deceased individual was a direct result of a
7 seizure or epilepsy.

8 (b) Duties of coroner.--If the findings of the autopsy under
9 subsection (a) are consistent with known or suspected SUDEP, the
10 coroner shall:

11 (1) Cause to be indicated on the death certificate of
12 the deceased individual that SUDEP is the cause or suspected
13 cause of death, when appropriate.

14 (2) Provide the next of kin contact information for a
15 third-party entity that documents and analyzes SUDEP deaths
16 in order to reveal SUDEP risk factors and causes.

17 (c) Applicability.--This section shall apply to counties of
18 the first class, second class, second class A, third class,
19 fourth class, fifth class, sixth class, seventh class and eighth
20 class.

21 (d) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "sudden
22 unexpected death in epilepsy" or "SUDEP" shall refer to a death
23 in a patient previously diagnosed with epilepsy that is not due
24 to trauma, drowning, status epilepticus or other known causes
25 but for which there is often evidence of an associated seizure.
26 A finding of SUDEP is definite when clinical criteria are met
27 and an autopsy reveals no alternative cause of death, including
28 stroke, myocardial infarction or drug intoxication, although
29 there may be evidence of a seizure.

30 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HB1527 PN1784	Prepared By:	Dylan Lindberg
Committee:	Health		(717) 705-1875,6240
Sponsor:	Davidson, Nathan	Executive Director:	Erika Fricke
Date:	6/2/2025		

A. Brief Concept

Extends the Rare Disease Advisory Council's authorization to June 30th, 2028.

C. Analysis of the Bill

House Bill 1527 amends the Rare Disease Advisory Council Act to extend its authorization to June 30th, 2028.

Effective Date:

Immediately.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

The Rare Disease Advisory Council Act established the council, and set an expiration date of June 30th, 2025. House Bill 1527 would extend it another three years to 2028.

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

N/A

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1527 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY DAVIDSON, BIZZARRO, GLEIM, DELLOSO, FRANKEL,
RIVERA, GALLAGHER AND NEILSON, MAY 29, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 30, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 7, 2017 (P.L.285, No.14), entitled "An
2 act establishing the Rare Disease Advisory Council and
3 providing for its powers and duties; and providing for duties
4 of the Department of Health, the Insurance Department, the
5 Department of Human Services and the Department of
6 Education," further providing for expiration.

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

9 Section 1. Section 7 of the act of July 7, 2017 (P.L.285,
10 No.14), known as the Rare Disease Advisory Council Act, is
11 amended to read:

12 Section 7. Expiration.

13 This act shall expire June 30, [2025] 2028.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0249 PN1836	Prepared By:	Patrick O'Rourke (717) 787-4296,6711
Committee:	Health	Executive Director:	Erika Fricke
Sponsor:	Rapp, Kathy		
Date:	6/4/2025		

A. Brief Concept

Designates the week of September 21 through 28, 2025 as "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Research and Awareness Week."

C. Analysis of the Bill

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is marked by progressive scarring of the lungs, causing an irreversible loss of the lung tissue's ability to transport oxygen. It is a generally fatal condition, often causing death within three to five years. There is no known cause and it often get misdiagnosed or underdiagnosed. More than 132,000 Americans have the condition. Each year approximately 40,000 individuals die from the condition and more than 50,000 new cases are diagnosed.

In Pennsylvania, approximately 7,000 residents are presently diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Relatedly, the Commonwealth is a leader in research and treatment of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, with more than 15% of all lung transplants in the United States performed in Pennsylvania hospitals. Organizations like the Wescoe Foundation for Pulmonary Fibrosis and the Pennsylvania Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Network play a crucial role in raising awareness and providing support and education for patients, families and health care providers throughout the state.

Effective Date:

N/A.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

N/A.

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

N/A.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 249 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, ZIMMERMAN, KAUFFMAN, CAUSER, ROWE, VENKAT,
NEILSON, RIVERA AND GALLAGHER, JUNE 3, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 4, 2025

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 21 through 28, 2025, as
2 "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Research and Awareness Week"
3 in Pennsylvania to increase awareness and understanding of
4 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis to support improved diagnosis
5 and treatment.

6 WHEREAS, Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and
7 generally fatal disease marked by progressive scarring of the
8 lungs, causing an irreversible loss of the lung tissue's ability
9 to transport oxygen; and

10 WHEREAS, Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis progresses quickly,
11 often causing disability or death within three to five years;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is the most common
14 form of interstitial lung disease; and

15 WHEREAS, There is no proven cause of idiopathic pulmonary
16 fibrosis, and it is often misdiagnosed or underdiagnosed; and

17 WHEREAS, Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is five times more
18 common than cystic fibrosis and Lou Gehrig's disease, yet the
19 disease remains virtually unknown and receives a fraction of the

1 research funding; and

2 WHEREAS, More than 132,000 United States citizens have
3 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and more than 50,000 new cases are
4 diagnosed each year; and

5 WHEREAS, 40,000 people die each year due to idiopathic
6 pulmonary fibrosis, the same number as breast cancer; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 7,000 Pennsylvanians suffer from
8 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis; and

9 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has become a leader in the
10 research and treatment of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, with
11 more than 15% of all lung transplants in the United States
12 performed in Pennsylvania hospitals; and

13 WHEREAS, Organizations like the Wescoe Foundation for
14 Pulmonary Fibrosis and the Pennsylvania Idiopathic Pulmonary
15 Fibrosis Support Network play a crucial role in raising
16 awareness and providing support and education for patients,
17 families and health care providers throughout this Commonwealth;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Increased research, awareness and detection of
20 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is needed; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 week of September 21 through 28, 2025, as "Idiopathic Pulmonary
23 Fibrosis Research and Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania to
24 increase awareness and understanding of idiopathic pulmonary
25 fibrosis to support improved diagnosis and treatment.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No: HR0251 PN1839
Committee: Health
Sponsor: Rapp, Kathy
Date: 6/6/2025

Prepared By: Marisela Sotelo Tornero
(717) 705-1875
Executive Director: Erika Fricke

A. Brief Concept

Recognizes October 24, 2025, as "World Polio Day" in Pennsylvania.

C. Analysis of the Bill

The resolution highlights the role of Rotary International as a global network of individuals promoting change through humanitarian action and their role in eradicating polio.

The following facts are emphasized:

- In 1985, Rotary launched the PolioPlus program, and in 1988 helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.
- Since 1988, polio cases have decreased by 99.9%, and the world is close to eradicating the disease.
- Currently, Rotary seeks to raise \$50 million per year for three years, with each dollar matched by two additional dollars from the Gates Foundation, generating up to \$450 million in total.
- Rotary has also influenced government decisions to contribute more than \$10 billion to the global effort.
- There are over 1.4 million Rotary members in more than 46,000 clubs worldwide that develop community projects focused on poverty, disease, hunger, literacy, and the environment.

Effective Date:

N/A.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

N/A.

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

2023-24 Legislative Session

- [HR244 PN2151](#) (Rapp)
 - A Resolution recognizing October 24, 2023, as "World Polio Day."
 - Laid on the table 3/20/2024.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 251 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, ZIMMERMAN, PICKETT, GLEIM, COOPER, RIVERA,
CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, KAUFFMAN, CAUSER, VENKAT, ROWE, NEILSON,
VITALI AND HADDOCK, JUNE 3, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 4, 2025

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 24, 2025, as "World Polio Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Rotary is a global network of neighbors, friends,
4 leaders and problem-solvers who unite and take action to create
5 lasting change in communities across the world; and

6 WHEREAS, The Rotary motto, "Service Above Self," inspires
7 members to provide humanitarian service, follow high ethical
8 standards and promote goodwill and peace in the world; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1985, Rotary launched PolioPlus and in 1988
10 helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which
11 today includes the World Health Organization, the Centers for
12 Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates
13 Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize the
14 children of the world against polio; and

15 WHEREAS, Polio cases have dropped by 99.9% since 1988 and the
16 world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

17 WHEREAS, To date Rotary has contributed more than \$2.6

1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protecting more than 3
2 billion children in 122 countries; and

3 WHEREAS, Rotary is working to raise an additional \$50 million
4 per year over three years that would be leveraged for maximum
5 impact with every dollar to be matched with two additional
6 dollars from the Gates Foundation, which would amount to \$450
7 million total; and

8 WHEREAS, These efforts are providing much-needed operational
9 support, medical staff, laboratory equipment and educational
10 materials for health workers and parents; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition, Rotary has played a major role in
12 decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$10
13 billion to the effort; and

14 WHEREAS, There are more than 1.4 million Rotary members in
15 more than 46,000 clubs throughout the world that sponsor service
16 projects to address such critical issues as poverty, disease,
17 hunger, illiteracy and the environment in their local
18 communities and abroad; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October
20 24, 2025, as "World Polio Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
23 citizens to join Rotary International in the fight for a polio-
24 free world.