

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 362 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, CALTAGIRONE, DeLUCA, FREEMAN, KINSEY AND NEILSON, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

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 payments for burial services; and abrogating a
 5 regulation.

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

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

11 (n) Burial Services Allowance

12 Section 494. Payments for Burial Services.--(a) The
 13 department shall pay a burial or cremation allowance in the
 14 amount of \$900 for the following:

15 (1) Individuals who received Supplemental Security Income.

16 (2) Individuals who received cash benefits from the
 17 department prior to death.

18 (3) Individuals found eligible for cash assistance prior to
 19 death.

1 (4) Residents of nursing homes who received Supplemental
2 Security Income or nursing home care payments prior to and
3 continuously since January 1, 1973.

4 (b) This amount may be supplemented by the decedent's estate
5 or another party in an amount not to exceed \$900, in accordance
6 with the eligibility requirements of 55 Pa. Code § 283.3
7 (relating to requirements for payment). Individuals who die but
8 did not apply for assistance shall be reviewed for eligibility
9 to qualify for a grant allowance. If eligible, an allowance
10 shall be paid by the department.

11 (c) Separate payments totaling an amount not to exceed the
12 amounts authorized in subsections (a) and (b) may be made for
13 funeral, cemetery and crematorium expenses.

14 (d) The amounts specified in subsections (a) and (b) shall
15 increase by \$50 each year for five consecutive years after the
16 effective date of this section.

17 Section 2. The provisions of 55 Pa. Code § 283.21 are
18 abrogated. All other provisions of 55 Pa. Code are abrogated
19 insofar as they are inconsistent with this act.

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