

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1788 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, BARRAR, BERNSTINE, BLOOM, EVERETT, GILLEN, GROVE, A. HARRIS, PHILLIPS-HILL, IRVIN, JOZWIAK, KAUFER, KAUFFMAN, MILLARD, PICKETT, SAYLOR, SONNEY, WHEELAND AND ZIMMERMAN, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

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 prohibition of cash assistance extensions.

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

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

10 Section 432.25. Prohibition of Cash Assistance Extensions.--

11 (a) Except as provided under subsection (b), the department may
12 not approve an extension of cash benefits under the Temporary
13 Assistance for Needy Families program in excess of forty-eight
14 cumulative months of assistance during a recipient's lifetime.

15 (b) The following shall be exempted from the prohibition
16 under subsection (a):

17 (1) An individual who is diligently participating in a work
18 activity and who has been unable to obtain employment due to

1 significant employment barriers and demonstrates a valid need
2 for more time.

3 (2) A teen parent who is diligently participating in a work
4 activity and who needs an exemption for twenty-four months of
5 eligibility after receipt of a high school diploma or equivalent
6 program.

7 (3) An individual who is a victim of domestic violence that
8 delayed or affected the individual's work participation.

9 (4) A minor child of a work eligible family if the time
10 limit termination of benefits under subsection (a) would result
11 in the child being placed into emergency shelter or foster care.

12 (5) An individual who has a disability which precludes
13 employment on a long-term basis.

14 (6) An individual who is a caretaker of a disabled family
15 member living in the household.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.