

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 600

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY MORRIS, PITTS, COWELL, KERNICK, GILLETTE,
D. R. WRIGHT, KLINGAMAN, W. W. FOSTER, SHUMAN, FRYER,
CALTAGIRONE, BROWN, COLE, WILT, YAHNER, ARTHURS, CIMINI AND
SIRIANNI, MARCH 14, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, MARCH 14, 1977

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," requiring able-bodied
4 persons receiving public assistance to work on assigned local
5 governmental jobs.

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 "Public Welfare Code," is amended by adding a section to
10 read:

11 Section 405.2. Able-bodied Persons Receiving Public
12 Assistance to Work on Local Jobs.--(a) All able-bodied persons
13 receiving public assistance shall perform such work as may be
14 assigned to them by the department on local governmental jobs
15 relating to environmental protection, road repair or projects to
16 improve urban living conditions. The department shall provide
17 for physical examinations of such persons by departmental
18 physicians to determine the fact of their being able-bodied. Any

1 such person found to be able-bodied refusing to perform such
2 work shall receive no further assistance payments until he shall
3 have complied with the provisions of this section.

4 (b) The department shall make available each month to local
5 governmental agencies the number of able-bodied persons
6 receiving public assistance who are available for employment,
7 classified by occupation and political subdivision.

8 (c) Local government agencies shall furnish employment for
9 as many able-bodied persons as their supervision will permit.
10 They shall designate to the department the number of persons
11 that can be used, and the character of the work for which they
12 are required. Thereupon, the department shall notify the
13 required number of such persons to report for work for a
14 specified number of hours each week, at a time and place
15 designated in the notice. Such services shall be rendered free
16 of charge to the governmental agencies, except for the cost of
17 transportation if the distance from such person's residence to
18 the work project exceeds two and one-half miles, in which case
19 such persons shall be required to report to some designated
20 point within two and one-half miles from their residence from
21 which transportation shall be furnished.

22 (d) During any week any such person shall work in return for
23 assistance received, he shall be required to work only such
24 number of hours as he would work if paid a compensation equal to
25 such assistance at the prevailing rate of pay in the locality
26 where the work is being done. Such work shall be performed
27 during the week for which the assistance is being or is to be
28 received. The department shall, in all cases, be the judge of
29 the prevailing rate of pay in the locality for the particular
30 type of work.

1 (e) Any such person receiving assistance who fails to appear
2 for work at the time and place specified in any notice from the
3 department, or who fails to continue at the work as long as
4 required so to do, without reason deemed sufficient by the
5 department, shall be deemed to have refused to work, and shall
6 be refused further assistance.

7 (f) The projects or work to which such persons shall be
8 assigned by the department shall not be in substitution of
9 existing projects, or of projects which could be sponsored under
10 Federal programs, or work which the State or political
11 subdivisions have undertaken or contracts entered into by them
12 so as to decrease the Federal funds available for work projects
13 or so as to displace any present or contemplated employment; but
14 the work to which the unemployed employables are assigned shall
15 be in addition and supplementary to any existing Federal
16 projects or to any projects, work or contracts now being
17 performed, undertaken or to be performed or undertaken in the
18 usual and regular course of the needs and requirements of the
19 State or any political subdivision.

20 (g) No person receiving public assistance shall be assigned
21 to any work that is in competition with any gainfully employed
22 person.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.