

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE BILL

## No. 358

Session of  
1985

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INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, IRVIS, MANDERINO, OLIVER, FISCHER,  
WAMBACH, CLARK, LESCOVITZ, DOMBROWSKI, LEVDANSKY, FEE,  
WOZNIAK, MICHLOVIC, MRKONIC, VAN HORNE, PRATT, TRELLO,  
PETRARCA, COWELL, STABACK, HALUSKA, BELFANTI, GEORGE,  
STEWART, RYBAK, DALEY, ITKIN, DEAL, SWEET, STEIGHNER, CESSAR,  
BATTISTO, STUBAN, DeWEESE, McCALL, TIGUE, MERRY, TELEK,  
BLAUM, CAWLEY, VEON, BELARDI, McHALE, COLAFELLA, KASUNIC,  
LETTERMAN, MORRIS, DAWIDA, JAROLIN, MICOZZIE, FISCHER AND  
JOSEPHS, FEBRUARY 13, 1985

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AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 8, 1985

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## AN ACT

1 Providing a procedure whereby economically disadvantaged  
2 municipalities may participate in State-funded programs  
3 requiring shared funding when they are unable to provide  
4 their share of the funds.

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

7 Section 1. Legislative intent.

8 Due to plant closings, loss of jobs, property devaluation,  
9 unemployment levels and poverty levels, many small  
10 municipalities in the Commonwealth are unable to raise  
11 sufficient local tax revenues to provide essential government  
12 services for their citizens. Because of this situation, the  
13 social and economic viability of many communities and the health  
14 and welfare of their people are severely threatened. While the  
15 General Assembly has enacted numerous programs to assist

1 municipalities in providing government services, either through  
2 direct State activity or through grants awarded to  
3 municipalities, many of these programs require the benefiting  
4 municipality to provide a local share or matching funds in order  
5 to receive this aid. Because of the severe economic conditions  
6 existing in many small municipalities, these municipalities are  
7 presently unable to meet these local funding requirements for  
8 State aid. It is the intent of this act to enable these severely  
9 distressed municipalities to participate in State-funded  
10 programs even though they are unable to meet existing statutory  
11 or regulatory requirements for local shares or matching funds.

12 Section 2. Definitions.

13 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
14 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
15 context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Department." The Department of Commerce, Department of  
17 Community Affairs, Department of Environmental Resources or  
18 Department of Transportation of the Commonwealth.

19 "Economically disadvantaged municipalities." Those  
20 municipalities identified as economically disadvantaged  
21 municipalities by the Bureau for Economically Disadvantaged  
22 Municipalities in the Department of Community Affairs, including  
23 authorities formed by economically disadvantaged municipalities.

24 "Local share." That portion of the costs of any State  
25 program which is required by law or regulation to be borne by a  
26 municipality.

27 "MUNICIPALITY." A CITY, BOROUGH, INCORPORATED TOWN, TOWNSHIP <—  
28 OR ANY HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY THAT IS NOT A COUNTY.

29 "Secretary." The Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of  
30 Community Affairs, Secretary of Environmental Resources or

1 Secretary of Transportation of the Commonwealth.

2 "State program." Any program or activity PROVIDING FUNDING <—  
3 TO MUNICIPALITIES conducted or administered by a department  
4 which results in an expenditure of funds appropriated by the  
5 General Assembly. THIS TERM EXCLUDES ANY PROGRAM WHICH PROVIDES <—  
6 AID SOLELY TO COUNTIES.

7 Section 3. Discretion granted to secretary.

8 Whenever any State program requires a local share by an  
9 economically disadvantaged municipality, the secretary of the  
10 department administering the program shall review the proposed  
11 program and shall consult with the officials of the municipality  
12 ~~and~~, the Director of the Bureau for Economically Disadvantaged <—  
13 Municipalities AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHO <—  
14 REPRESENT THE AFFECTED MUNICIPALITY to evaluate the public  
15 benefit of the program and the ability of the municipality to  
16 provide the local share. After this evaluation, the secretary  
17 shall have the authority to reduce the amount or percentage of  
18 the local share commensurate with the nature of the project and  
19 the ability of the municipality to meet its share.

20 Section 4. Expiration.

21 This act expires June 30, 1988, unless extended by statute.