
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 875 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, DRISCOLL, MURT, McNEILL,
SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, READSHAW, O'NEILL, D. COSTA,
V. BROWN AND BRIGGS, MARCH 16, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 16, 2017

AN ACT

1 Relating to the delivery of services and programs to persons
2 with disabilities; conferring powers and duties on the Office
3 of the Governor; establishing the Office for People with
4 Disabilities, Cabinet for People with Disabilities and
5 Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities; and
6 providing for their powers, duties and funding.

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9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 CHAPTER 1

12 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

13 Section 101. Short title.

14 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Office for
15 People with Disabilities Act.

16 Section 102. Definitions.

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

20 "Advisory committee." The Advisory Committee for People with
21 Disabilities established by this act.

22 "Cabinet." The Governor's Cabinet for People with
23 Disabilities established by this act.

24 "Office." The Office for People with Disabilities
25 established by this act.

26 "Person with a disability." A child or adult in this
27 Commonwealth who has a physical or mental impairment that
28 substantially limits one or more major life activities.

29 CHAPTER 3

30 OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

1 Section 301. Establishment.

2 The Office for People with Disabilities is established within
3 the Office of the Governor. The office shall be administered by
4 the Office of the Governor.

5 Section 302. Powers and duties of office.

6 The office shall:

7 (1) Make recommendations to the Governor on policies,
8 procedures, regulations and legislation that aid people with
9 disabilities in this Commonwealth.

10 (2) Serve as the Governor's liaison to people with
11 disabilities on policies, procedures, regulations and
12 legislation that affect people with disabilities to ensure
13 that State government is accessible, accountable and
14 responsive to people with disabilities.

15 (3) Serve as a resource to State agencies under the
16 Governor's jurisdiction to ensure that the agencies are
17 cognizant of the needs of people with disabilities and that
18 their respective services and programs are accessible to
19 those individuals.

20 (4) Work with the Governor and State agencies to ensure
21 the efficient and effective delivery of services to people
22 with disabilities by:

23 (i) Facilitating cooperation among State agencies as
24 to their disability-related functions.

25 (ii) Serving as a liaison between the advisory
26 committee and State agencies.

27 (5) Work with the Governor and State agencies to advance
28 the hiring, retention and promotion practices of the
29 Commonwealth relating to the employment of people with
30 disabilities to ensure that there are no discriminatory

practices.

(6) Employ an executive director to carry out the duties of this section, who shall have the additional duty of arranging for meetings of the cabinet, the advisory committee and, upon request of the advisory committee chairperson, joint meetings of the two bodies.

CHAPTER 5

GOVERNOR'S CABINET FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Section 501. Establishment.

The Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities is established.

Section 502. Membership.

The cabinet shall consist of the following members, or their designees, who shall serve by virtue of their public position:

(1) Secretary of Human Services.

(2) Secretary of Labor and Industry.

(3) Secretary of Health.

(4) Secretary of Education.

(5) Secretary of Transportation.

(6) Secretary of the Budget.

(7) Secretary of Aging.

(8) Secretary of Policy and Planning.

(9) Adjutant General.

(10) Secretary of the Commonwealth.

(11) Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

(12) Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

(13) Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Planning Council.

(14) Executive Director of the Office for People with Disabilities.

(15) Executive Director of the Intra-Governmental Council on Long-Term Care.

Section 503. Responsibilities of cabinet.

(a) Responsibilities.--The responsibilities of the cabinet are as follows:

(1) To make recommendations on policies, procedures, regulations and legislation that aid people with disabilities in this Commonwealth to the Governor based upon recommendations, resolutions and other information received by the advisory committee.

(2) To meet no less than twice annually to consider recommendations from the advisory committee and other disability-related matters.

(b) Chairperson.--The members of the cabinet shall elect a chairperson from among the members, who shall serve in that capacity until a successor is appointed.

CHAPTER 7

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Section 701. Establishment.

The Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities is established within the Office for People with Disabilities.

Section 702. Responsibilities.

The advisory committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the cabinet in matters regarding people with disabilities in this Commonwealth.

Section 703. Membership.

(a) Members.--The advisory committee shall consist of members appointed as follows:

1 (1) The Governor shall appoint persons with
2 disabilities, including individuals from existing stakeholder
3 groups, in a number as the Governor deems appropriate.

4 (2) At a minimum, 60% of the members shall be persons
5 with disabilities or family members of persons with
6 disabilities.

7 (3) Members shall be selected based upon an evaluation
8 of information received through formal application.

9 (4) Members appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the
10 Governor as long as they represent the interest of the
11 membership class for which they were appointed and shall
12 serve until their successors are appointed.

13 (b) Chairperson.--The members of the advisory committee
14 shall elect a chairperson from among the members. Ballots may be
15 cast either in person or by proxy.

16 (c) Expenses of members.--The executive director shall make
17 every effort to minimize the cost of meetings through the use of
18 videoconferencing or other electronic meeting devices. Members
19 of the advisory committee shall receive no compensation for
20 their services. Members who are not employees of State
21 government shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the
22 course of their duties in accordance with Commonwealth policy.

23 (d) Studies and reports.--The advisory committee may conduct
24 studies and issue reports upon request and as it deems necessary
25 on issues affecting persons with disabilities in this
26 Commonwealth.

27 (e) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be
28 construed to prevent the advisory committee from establishing ad
29 hoc work groups or local committees to assist in research and
30 other duties necessary to carry out the mission of the advisory

1 committee and the office.

2 (f) Work with cabinet.--The cabinet and the advisory
3 committee shall meet jointly at least once a year. The advisory
4 committee may request additional joint meetings with the cabinet
5 to facilitate communications. Representatives of the cabinet
6 shall attend advisory committee meetings.

7 (g) Existing committees.--The establishment of the advisory
8 committee is not intended to replace an existing committee that
9 performs a similar advisory function.

10 CHAPTER 9

11 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

12 Section 901. Responsibilities of State agencies.

13 State agencies shall cooperate with and provide necessary
14 assistance to the cabinet and advisory committee in performing
15 their functions.

16 Section 902. Cooperation.

17 In implementing this act, the cabinet and advisory committee
18 shall utilize existing resources available through the
19 Commonwealth and donated resources of members before incurring
20 additional expenses.

21 Section 903. Funding.

22 The Office of the Governor shall use Federal funds where
23 possible for the administration of the Office for People with
24 Disabilities, the Governor's Cabinet for People with
25 Disabilities and the Advisory Committee for People with
26 Disabilities and shall expend Federal funds, on appropriation by
27 the General Assembly, prior to expending any State
28 appropriations for the same or similar purpose. The Office of
29 the Governor shall utilize any available private funds to carry
30 out the provisions of this act.

1 Section 904. Abrogation of executive order.

2 This act shall abrogate Executive Order 2006-09, establishing
3 the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities and the
4 Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.

5 Section 905. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 60 days.