
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1155 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY COSTA, FONTANA, BREWSTER, FARNESE, HUGHES,
SCHWANK, RAFFERTY, VULAKOVICH AND MENSCH, MAY 7, 2018

REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MAY 7, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 12, 1994 (P.L.1023, No.139),
2 entitled "An act establishing the Statewide Independent
3 Living Council; providing for the powers and duties of the
4 council; providing for a State plan for the provision of
5 services to people with disabilities; providing for grants
6 and funding for establishment of centers for independent
7 living; and requiring centers for independent living to
8 maintain certain standards and give certain assurances in
9 order to qualify for assistance," further providing for
10 definitions and for grants and funding.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 3 of the act of December 12, 1994
14 (P.L.1023, No.139), known as the Independent Living Services
15 Act, is amended by adding definitions to read:

16 Section 3. 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 * * *

21 "Individual who is deafblind." An individual:

22 (1) Who has a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in

1 the better eye with corrective lenses or a field defect such
2 that the peripheral diameter of visual field subtends an
3 angular distance no greater than 20 degrees or a progressive
4 visual loss having a prognosis leading to one or both
5 conditions.

6 (2) Who has a chronic hearing impairment so severe that
7 most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification
8 or a progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to
9 this condition.

10 (3) For whom the combination of impairments described
11 under paragraphs (1) and (2) causes extreme difficulty in
12 attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving
13 psychosocial adjustment or obtaining a vocation.

14 (4) Who despite the inability to be measured accurately
15 for hearing and vision loss due to cognitive or behavioral
16 constraints, or both, can be determined through functional
17 and performance assessment to have severe hearing and visual
18 disabilities that cause extreme difficulty in attaining
19 independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial
20 adjustment or obtaining vocation objectives.

21 * * *

22 "Support service provider." An individual trained by a
23 center for independent living to link an individual who is
24 deafblind to their environment by:

25 (1) Guiding an individual who is deafblind.

26 (2) Facilitating communication between an individual who
27 is deafblind and other individuals.

28 (3) Providing information to an individual who is
29 deafblind about their surroundings.

30 Section 2. Section 8 of the act is amended by adding a

1 subsection to read:

2 Section 8. Grants and funding.

3 * * *

4 (f) Existing centers for independent living.--

5 (1) The Department of Labor and Industry shall provide
6 grants to:

7 (i) Centers for independent living that provide
8 services to individuals who are deafblind. Grants shall
9 be used to provide assistance to an individual who is
10 deafblind who is working toward establishing and
11 maintaining independence.

12 (ii) Centers for independent living that train
13 support service providers. Grants shall be used to
14 provide the necessary training to become a support
15 service provider in this Commonwealth.

16 (2) A grant under this subsection shall be in the amount
17 of at least \$250,000. Beginning on the effective date of this
18 subsection and annually thereafter, the minimum grant amount
19 listed in this paragraph shall increase at the rate of
20 inflation as outlined in the Consumer Price Index for All
21 Urban Consumers in the Northeast Region for the most recent
22 12-month period for which the figures have been reported by
23 the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
24 Statistics. If the rate of inflation does not increase, the
25 minimum grant amount shall remain the same as it was for the
26 previous year.

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