
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2535 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SHUSTERMAN, MURT, HANBIDGE, GALLOWAY, FREEMAN,
LONGIETTI, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, ULLMAN, DRISCOLL, KENYATTA,
PASHINSKI, SCHWEYER, DELLOSO, HOWARD, GAINNEY, KORTZ, OTTEN,
McCLINTON, READSHAW, SCHLOSSBERG, GREEN, COMITTA, ROZZI,
DEASY AND LEE, MAY 21, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, MAY 21, 2020

AN ACT

1 Providing for e-commerce assistance and safety guidelines for
2 small businesses.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Small
7 Business E-Commerce Assistance Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
13 Development of the Commonwealth.

14 "E-commerce." Commercial transactions conducted
15 electronically on the Internet, through a mobile application, by
16 telephone or other electronic means.

1 "Secretary." The Secretary of Community and Economic
2 Development of the Commonwealth.

3 "Small business." A person that employs five or fewer
4 employees.

5 Section 3. Small business e-commerce assistance.

6 (a) General rule.--A small business shall be eligible for
7 technical assistance and support relating to e-commerce from the
8 department as provided under this section.

9 (b) Assistance.--The department shall provide technical
10 assistance and support for e-commerce to small businesses,
11 including, but not limited to, the following:

12 (1) The creation, development and expansion of an
13 Internet website, mobile application, telephone ordering
14 system or other electronic method to conduct e-commerce.

15 (2) Guidance on computer and other technological
16 requirements to conduct e-commerce.

17 (3) Delivery methods or product pick-up methods that are
18 safe for customers and employees.

19 (4) Other services deemed necessary by the department.

20 (c) Application.--The department shall establish an
21 application process for small businesses to apply for technical
22 assistance and support under this section and make the
23 application available on its publicly accessible Internet
24 website.

25 Section 4. Resources for small businesses.

26 The department shall provide resources for small businesses
27 on its publicly accessible Internet website on all of the
28 following:

29 (1) Best practices for e-commerce.

30 (2) Secure payment methods.

1 (3) Contactless payment methods.

2 (4) Awareness of fraud, hacking or other criminal
3 attacks on e-commerce.

4 (5) Social distancing and safe workplace guidelines
5 provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

6 Section 5. Safe workplace guidelines.

7 The department shall provide safe workplace guidelines to
8 prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases to small
9 businesses. The guidelines may be adapted from materials
10 developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
11 other Federal or Commonwealth departments and agencies.

12 Section 6. Expiration.

13 The provisions of this act shall expire one year after the
14 termination or expiration of the disaster emergency declared by
15 the Governor on March 6, 2020, and published at 50 Pa.B. 1644
16 (March 21, 2020).

17 Section 7. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect immediately.