
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 552 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DOWLING, RYAN, DUNBAR, SAYLOR, GROVE, COX, HILL-
EVANS, STRUZZI, BARRAR, WARNER, BURNS, WALSH AND PUSKARIC,
FEBRUARY 20, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

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," in public assistance,
4 providing for work requirements.

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

7 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
8 as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to
9 read:

10 Section 441.10. Work Requirements.--(a) No later than March
11 1 of each year, the secretary shall apply to the Centers for
12 Medicare and Medicaid Services of the United States Department
13 of Health and Human Services for a demonstration program under
14 section 1115 of the Social Security Act (49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C.
15 § 1315) for the following purposes:

16 (1) Instituting a work requirement for a medical assistance
17 enrollee who is not exempt under paragraph (4). The work
18 requirement shall require a medical assistance enrollee to

1 become employed, actively seek employment as verified by the
2 department, or attend a job training program in accordance with
3 the following:

4 (i) In the case of a medical assistance enrollee who is
5 employed or attending job training programs in order to maintain
6 enrollment in the medical assistance program, the medical
7 assistance enrollee shall work twenty hours a week or complete
8 twelve job training program-related activities a month.

9 (ii) A medical assistance enrollee who has failed to comply
10 with the work requirement under subparagraph (i) shall
11 relinquish medical assistance program eligibility for the
12 following time periods:

13 (A) Three months beginning in year two of enrollment in
14 medical assistance.

15 (B) Six months beginning after the time period under clause
16 (A) expires.

17 (C) Nine months beginning after the time period under clause
18 (B) expires.

19 (2) Requiring an able-bodied medical assistance enrollee who
20 is nineteen years of age or older to verify on a biannual basis
21 or by request of the department the medical assistance
22 enrollee's family income or the medical assistance enrollee's
23 compliance with the provisions under paragraph (1) for the
24 purpose of determining the medical assistance enrollee's
25 eligibility.

26 (3) Delaying an individual from enrolling in a medical
27 assistance program if the individual has failed to comply with
28 paragraphs (1) and (2).

29 (4) Exempting a medical assistance enrollee from the
30 requirements under paragraphs (1) and (2) if the medical

1 assistance enrollee meets any of the following conditions:

2 (i) Is attending high school as a full-time student.

3 (ii) Is currently receiving temporary or permanent long-term
4 disability benefits.

5 (iii) Is an individual eighteen years of age or younger or
6 sixty-five years of age or older.

7 (iv) Is a pregnant woman.

8 (v) Receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

9 (vi) Resides in a mental health institution or correctional
10 institution.

11 (vii) Is experiencing a crisis, serious medical condition or
12 temporary condition that prevents the Medicaid enrollee from
13 actively seeking employment, including, but not limited to,
14 domestic violence or a substance use disorder.

15 (viii) Is the primary caregiver to a dependent who is six
16 years of age or younger.

17 (ix) Is the primary caregiver to an individual who is
18 permanently disabled or who is in hospice care.

19 (b) The secretary's application for the demonstration
20 program under subsection (a) shall align with other assistance
21 programs that have work requirements in order to reduce the cost
22 of monitoring the work requirements.

23 (c) The demonstration program under subsection (a) may
24 include a medical assistance buy-in component to allow workers
25 with disabilities to have higher wage earnings and maintain
26 their medical assistance coverage.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.