

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 934 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIANA, V. BROWN, MILLARD, HELM, KOTIK, MUSTIO, DRISCOLL, McNEILL, LONGIETTI, COHEN, QUIGLEY, A. HARRIS, ORTITAY, MARSHALL, SIMMONS, SCHREIBER, GRELL, SAYLOR, STEPHENS, GROVE, MURT, WATSON, GABLER, KAUFER, GIBBONS AND JOZWIAK, APRIL 8, 2015

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 21, 2015

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 the establishment of KEYS.

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 Public Welfare Code, is amended by adding a section to
9 read:

10 Section 405.1B. Establishment of KEYS.--(a) There is
11 established in the department a program which shall be known as
12 Keystone Education Yields Success (KEYS). KEYS shall be designed
13 to enable and to assist ELIGIBLE individuals receiving TANF or <--
14 SNAP benefits to enroll in and pursue a certificate or degree
15 program within one of the Commonwealth's community colleges, A <--
16 CAREER OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF

1 EDUCATION or university within the Pennsylvania State System of
2 Higher Education.

3 (b) A KEYS recipient shall be permitted to count vocational
4 education, including class time, clinicals, labs and study time
5 as set by the community college, UNIVERSITY OR SCHOOL, toward <--
6 the recipient's core TANF work requirement for twenty-four
7 months.

8 (c) In accordance with KEYS and notwithstanding section
9 405.1, the following requirements shall apply:

10 (1) A recipient shall be enrolled in a AN APPROVED <--
11 degree or certificate program that will assist the recipient
12 in securing a job that pays a family-sustaining wage.

13 (2) A KEYS recipient may be granted a ~~six month~~ <--
14 ~~extension~~ EXTENSIONS FOR SIX-MONTH PERIODS to complete the <--
15 certificate or degree program, provided:

16 (i) the recipient is enrolled in a program that will
17 lead to a high-priority occupation, as defined in section
18 1301 of the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114),
19 known as the Workforce Development Act or a program the
20 community college has certified meets the same criteria
21 as a high-priority occupation;

22 (ii) The recipient has maintained a 2.0 grade point
23 average; and

24 (iii) the recipient has made satisfactory progress
25 toward completing the program, including, but not limited
26 to, completing all required developmental course work and
27 successfully completing an average of eight credits per
28 semester.

29 (d) A person who, without good cause, fails or refuses to
30 comply with the terms and conditions of the KEYS program shall

1 be terminated from the program.

2 (e) The department ~~shall~~ IS AUTHORIZED TO promulgate <--
3 regulations to implement this section.

4 (F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION IN <--
5 CONFORMITY WITH FEDERAL LAW.

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