

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 49

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY DiCARLO, LINCOLN, A. P. KELLY, GILLETTE, CASSIDY,
COLE AND CALTAGIRONE, JANUARY 19, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, JANUARY 19, 1977

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," changing provisions
4 relating to the Employment Fund for the Blind.

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

7 Section 1. Section 803, act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,
8 No.21), known as the "Public Welfare Code," amended July 27,
9 1967 (P.L.187, No.59), is amended to read:

10 Section 803. Business Enterprises; Equipment; Leases;
11 Repayment.--The department is hereby authorized to purchase,
12 own, install, maintain, license and lease equipment, accessories
13 and vending machines to be used for suitable business
14 enterprises for or on behalf of the blind and to advance to
15 deserving blind persons out of moneys in the employment fund for
16 the blind, such reasonable amounts as may be considered proper
17 to enable such blind persons to purchase the merchandise,
18 equipment, stock and accessories necessary to put into operation
19 a vending or refreshment stand or other suitable business

1 enterprises in some suitable location to be leased or arranged
2 for by the department. Pennsylvania blind veterans of the world
3 wars shall be given first preference for locations established,
4 in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Randolph-
5 Sheppard Act (20 U. S. C. A. Sec. 107, et seq.), and the rules
6 and regulations pursuant thereto.

7 Such business enterprises shall be approved by the department
8 and supervised periodically by the department.

9 The leases or permits for the installation and operation of
10 any such stands or other suitable business enterprises shall be
11 secured by the department in its own name.

12 Any moneys advanced to a blind person under the authority of
13 this act shall be repaid by such person in monthly installments,
14 which shall in no case be less than two percent of the gross
15 monthly sales made at the stand or business in question.

16 Equipment and accessories purchased, owned, installed and
17 maintained by the department may be leased to deserving blind
18 persons for an amount not to exceed four percent of the gross
19 monthly sales, except in those locations in which the gross
20 monthly sales do not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). Such
21 rental in these locations shall not exceed one percent of the
22 gross monthly sales. The department shall periodically regulate
23 the rental fees charged to such blind persons in accordance with
24 the regulations to be adopted by it, in such a manner as to
25 achieve approximate equality of opportunity to such blind
26 persons[, and to assure that the fund shall at no time exceed
27 one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000)]. The department
28 shall transmit all such repayments and rental fees into the
29 State Treasury, where they shall be credited to the Employment
30 Fund for the Blind, except that the fund shall at no time exceed

1 five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) and any amount in
2 excess of this limit shall be credited to the General Fund.

3 The department is authorized to receive and transmit to the
4 State Treasury for credit to the Employment Fund for the Blind,
5 all moneys heretofore or hereafter received by the Commonwealth
6 on account of contracts between the Commonwealth, acting through
7 the Department of [Property and Supplies] General Services and
8 vending machine owners, whereby the Commonwealth is to receive a
9 percentage of the profits from vending machines operated in
10 State buildings, except for those vending machines in State
11 buildings wherein a restaurant or cafeteria is operated by the
12 Department of [Property and Supplies] General Services.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.