

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 370 Session of
1991

INTRODUCED BY RICHARDSON, FEE, DALEY, GEORGE, BELFANTI,
CAPPABIANCA, HALUSKA, ROEBUCK, CARN, MARKOSEK, VAN HORNE,
LESCOVITZ, MELIO, MERRY, PRESTON, GIGLIOTTI, HERMAN, JOSEPHS,
FREEMAN, BUNT, J. TAYLOR, ANGSTADT, TRICH, STABACK, JOHNSON,
LEVANSKY, CAWLEY, R. C. WRIGHT, JAMES, KOSINSKI, TRELLO,
HARPER, BILLOW, LAUGHLIN, HUGHES, KUKOVICH, MICHLOVIC,
THOMAS, ACOSTA, BISHOP, EVANS, LINTON, OLIVER, ROBINSON,
WILLIAMS, PISTELLA, BROWN AND STEELMAN, FEBRUARY 12, 1991

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 22, 1991

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and
16 other assistants and employees in certain departments, boards,
17 and commissions; and prescribing the manner in which the
18 number and compensation of the deputies and all other
19 assistants and employees of certain departments, boards and
20 commissions shall be determined," providing for a separate
21 office in the Department of Public Welfare to administer the
22 CASH AND CRISIS COMPONENTS OF THE Low-Income Home Energy
23 Assistance Program; AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION. <—

24 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
25 hereby enacts as follows:

1 Section 1. The act of act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177,
2 No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by
3 adding a section to read:

4 Section 2336. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.--

5 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

6 (1) Home heating and energy service are a necessary part of
7 shelter and the lack of home heating poses a threat to life,
8 health and safety.

9 (2) Low-income households should be protected from the
10 disproportionately adverse effects on their income resulting
11 from increasing utility ENERGY prices. <—

12 (3) SOUND PUBLIC POLICY DICTATES THAT ASSISTING LOW-INCOME <—
13 HOUSEHOLDS IN MEETING THEIR ENERGY NEEDS MUST INCLUDE A
14 COMPONENT TO MAKE ENERGY MORE AFFORDABLE BY PERMANENTLY REDUCING
15 ENERGY COSTS THROUGH WEATHERIZATION.

16 ~~(3)~~ (4) It is the responsibility of the Commonwealth to <—
17 assist low-income households in meeting AND REDUCING their home <—
18 energy needs.

19 ~~(4)~~ (5) The Commonwealth recognizes that Oil Overcharge <—
20 Funds are a temporary and inadequate method of supplementing the
21 Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

22 ~~(5)~~ (6) The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program can <—
23 operate effectively only with a commitment of State dollars and
24 resources to go along with the Federal dollars.

25 ~~(6)~~ (7) The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is not <—
26 an income maintenance program and should not be administered as
27 such.

28 ~~(7)~~ (8) The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is of <—
29 such importance to the low-income households of this
30 Commonwealth that it should be administered by an office

1 dedicated exclusively to that purpose operated on a year-round
2 basis.

3 (b) There is hereby established within the Department of
4 Public Welfare, the Office of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance.
5 This office shall be separate and apart from offices performing
6 other functions, and its sole function shall be the
7 administration of the ENERGY ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS OF THE Low- <—
8 Income Home Energy Assistance Program in this Commonwealth. All
9 funds appropriated to the Department of Public Welfare for low-
10 income home energy assistance from Federal, State or other
11 sources shall be coordinated and expended through the program
12 administered by the Office of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance.

13 (C) THE WEATHERIZATION COMPONENT OF THE LOW-INCOME HOME <—
14 ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED SEPARATELY BY
15 THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

16 ~~(e)~~ (D) The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program Advisory <—
17 Council is hereby created to advise the Department of Public
18 Welfare on matters of policy relating to the development and
19 implementation of this program. Its members shall be appointed
20 by the Secretary of Public Welfare to serve such term as he
21 deems necessary.

22 ~~(d)~~ (E) The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program shall <—
23 be in operation for twelve months of the year. A quarterly
24 evaluation of the program shall be conducted the last day of
25 each fiscal quarter and benefits may be adjusted quarterly in
26 response to the evaluation. The council shall submit the
27 evaluation results to the General Assembly annually in the form
28 of a report.

29 ~~(e)~~ (F) The Department of Public Welfare shall be <—
30 responsible for assuring that the departmental office and local

1 offices have sufficient trained staff to adequately administer
2 the program.

3 ~~(f)~~ (G) Outreach programs at the State and county level <—
4 shall be provided.

5 ~~(g)~~ (H) The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program shall <—
6 be administered in a manner consistent with the State plan
7 submitted to the Federal Government.

8 ~~(h)~~ (I) The Department of Public Welfare shall cooperate <—
9 with other State agencies and with the Federal Government in the
10 administration of this program.

11 ~~(i)~~ (J) The Department of Public Welfare shall, in the <—
12 manner provided by law, promulgate the rules and regulations
13 necessary to carry out the ENERGY ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS OF THE <—
14 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

15 SECTION 2. THE SUM OF \$40,000,000, OR AS MUCH THEREOF AS MAY <—
16 BE NECESSARY, IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
17 WELFARE FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD JULY 1, 1992, TO JUNE 30, 1993, TO
18 SUPPLEMENT THE FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT AS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM
19 ELIGIBILITY LIMITS AND MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT, AS RELATES TO THE
20 LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

21 Section ~~2~~ 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days. <—