

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1032 Session of
1999

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, DAILEY, EACHUS, GORDNER, HARHAI, READSHAW, WOJNAROSKI, PESCI, TIGUE, GRUCELA, SATHER, STABACK, MICOZZIE, PLATTS, BUNT, MANDERINO, McILHATTAN, SAINATO, MYERS, TANGRETTI, CAWLEY, MICHLOVIC, LAUGHLIN, GODSHALL, BELFANTI, MELIO, STERN, SCRIMENTI, SEYFERT, M. COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, MAHER, E. Z. TAYLOR, BROWNE, EVANS, CAPPABIANCA, FREEMAN, TRELLO, THOMAS, DeLUCA AND McILHINNEY, MARCH 23, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 23, 1999

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," further providing for the
4 administration of assistance; and abrogating a regulation.

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

7 Section 1. Section 403 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,
8 No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, amended May 16, 1996
9 (P.L.175, No.35), is amended to read:

10 Section 403. Uniformity in Administration of Assistance;
11 Regulations as to Assistance.--(a) The department is
12 responsible for maintaining uniformity in the administration of
13 public welfare, including general assistance, throughout the
14 Commonwealth.

15 (b) The department shall establish rules, regulations and

1 standards, consistent with the law, as to eligibility for
2 assistance and as to its nature and extent. The department is
3 authorized to seek waivers from the Federal Government to
4 enhance consistency between Federal program standards,
5 requirements or procedures. This shall not be interpreted to
6 require the department to seek waivers to achieve consistency
7 among standards, requirements or procedures in Federal programs,
8 except as specifically required under other provisions in this
9 article. Whenever possible, except for residency requirements
10 for general assistance, and consistent with State law, the
11 department shall establish rules, regulations and standards for
12 general assistance consistent with those established for aid to
13 families with dependent children. In no instance shall the
14 rules, regulations and standards established for general
15 assistance provide for assistance greater than that provided for
16 aid to families with dependent children. If three or more
17 general assistance recipients reside together in the same
18 household, their income eligibility and cash assistance shall be
19 no greater than income eligibility and cash assistance from aid
20 to families with dependent children for a household of the same
21 size. Regulations under this subsection shall provide for a
22 personal needs allowance deduction of fifty dollars (\$50) from
23 the gross income of an individual eligible for medical
24 assistance. The secretary or a written designee is the only
25 person authorized to adopt regulations, orders, or standards of
26 general application to implement, interpret, or make specific
27 the law administered by the department. The secretary shall
28 issue interim regulations whenever changes in Federal laws and
29 regulations supersede existing statutes. In adopting
30 regulations, orders, or standards of general application, the

1 secretary shall strive for clarity of language which may be
2 readily understood by those administering assistance and by
3 those who apply for or receive assistance. For the purpose of
4 this subsection, the term "household" does not include single-
5 room occupancy residences, rooming houses, nonprofit residential
6 programs or personal care facilities receiving charitable
7 funding or Federal, State or local government funding.

8 (c) Whenever a recipient of public assistance, as a
9 prerequisite to receiving assistance or otherwise, has been
10 required to encumber in favor of the Commonwealth any property,
11 or to give any bond, note or other obligation in any sum to
12 secure the repayment of moneys received as assistance or for any
13 other purposes, and such bonds, notes, judgments, mortgages, or
14 other obligations are thereafter assigned by the Commonwealth to
15 any third party, the assignee shall not be entitled to collect,
16 and the person liable for the payment of the lien or obligation
17 shall not be liable for the payment of, any amount greater than
18 the amount the assignee paid for the assignment, notwithstanding
19 the face amount of such lien or obligation. This provision shall
20 not be effective as to the collection of interest accruing after
21 the date of the assignment or costs of collection.

22 (d) No general assistance shall be paid to any full-time
23 student at a college or university who has not participated in a
24 Federally subsidized program for dependent children within the
25 previous five years.

26 (e) Beginning no later than December 31, 1982, the
27 department shall conduct annual quality control reviews of the
28 general assistance caseload in accordance with a methodology and
29 scope determined by the department.

30 (f) No general assistance shall be paid to initial

1 applicants who voluntarily terminate their employment until
2 thirty days after the date of termination.

3 (g) Regulations which authorize payment for purchase of an
4 automobile, for parts for an automobile or for repair of an
5 automobile for a recipient of public assistance shall provide
6 that the payment shall be made jointly to the seller of the
7 automobile or parts or the garage or mechanic which made the
8 repairs and the recipient.

9 Section 2. The provisions of 55 Pa.Code § 181.452(d)(1)(i)
10 are abrogated.

11 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.