

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 697 Session of  
2014

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, BISHOP, THOMAS, MOLCHANY, MCGEEHAN,  
KINSEY, SWANGER, PAINTER, MCNEILL, MURT, GOODMAN, COHEN,  
QUINN, V. BROWN, DAVIS, DAVIDSON, ROZZI, D. COSTA AND  
READSHAW, APRIL 28, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, APRIL 28, 2014

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass and the  
2 President of the United States to sign the Achieving a Better  
3 Life Experience Act of 2013 (ABLE Act- S.313/H.R. 647) to  
4 provide an improved quality of life for individuals with  
5 disabilities through tax-exempt savings accounts.

6 WHEREAS, Many families have been searching for a way to plan  
7 for the future of a child with severe disabilities; and

8 WHEREAS, While families are able to save for the educational  
9 needs of their other children through 529 college tuition plans,  
10 they find those plans do not fit the needs of their child with  
11 severe disabilities, since their children may now, or in  
12 adulthood, need long-term services and support of the Medicaid  
13 program and the income assistance of the Supplemental Security  
14 Income (SSI) program; and

15 WHEREAS, Some families have found it too expensive to  
16 establish a trust which meets the requirements of the Medicaid  
17 and SSI programs, yet they recognize that their loved ones may  
18 live for many decades beyond the ability of the parents to

1 supplement the services they receive through Medicaid; and

2 WHEREAS, Others want to ensure the financial security of  
3 family members who have the level of disability required for  
4 Medicaid eligibility, but for now are managing to function  
5 without the use of those benefits; and

6 WHEREAS, Still others want to ensure that their family  
7 members can exercise control over the funds in the account  
8 without endangering the Medicaid and SSI benefits on which they  
9 may rely; and

10 WHEREAS, The ABLE Act adds provisions to section 529 of the  
11 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. §  
12 529) to allow use of tax-exempt savings accounts for individuals  
13 with disabilities to cover qualified expenses, such as  
14 education, housing, medical and transportation; and

15 WHEREAS, The ABLE Act accounts follow all the requirements  
16 and regulations of a traditional 529 qualified tuition program;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The ABLE Act would supplement, but not supplant,  
19 benefits provided through private insurance, the Medicaid  
20 program, the beneficiary's employment and other sources; and

21 WHEREAS, The ABLE Act would give individuals with  
22 disabilities and their families access to accounts that would  
23 allow individual choice and control while protecting eligibility  
24 for Medicaid, SSI and other important Federal benefits for  
25 people with disabilities; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
27 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
28 States to pass and the President of the United States to sign  
29 the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2013 to provide an  
30 improved quality of life for individuals with disabilities

1 through tax-exempt savings accounts; and be it further  
2 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
3 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of  
4 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from  
5 Pennsylvania.