

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL**No. 1322** Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, KNOWLES, ROZZI, MCGINNIS, CUTLER, BAKER,
BLOOM, ENGLISH, MILLARD, KAUFFMAN, TOOHL, DIAMOND, TOEPEL,
ACOSTA, PICKETT, MURT, HICKERNELL, WARD, GROVE, FEE, MILNE,
SAYLOR, HEFFLEY, A. HARRIS, KLUNK, D. COSTA, JOZWIAK, COX,
DAVIS, BOBACK, RADER, WARNER, SIMMONS, KRIEGER, PASHINSKI,
GABLER, GILLEN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, MULLERY, IRVIN, WHITE,
DeLUCA AND BURNS, JUNE 10, 2015

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 26, 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 further providing for identification and proof of residence.

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

7 Section 1. Section 432.4 of the act of June 13, 1967
8 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, amended June
9 16, 1994 (P.L.319, No.49) and May 16, 1996 (P.L.175, No.35), is
10 amended to read:

11 Section 432.4. Identification and Proof of Residence.--(a)
12 All persons applying for assistance shall provide acceptable
13 identification and proof of residence[; the department shall by
14 regulations specify what constitutes acceptable identification
15 and proof of residence]. A person shall be deemed to be a
16 resident when he or she documents his or her residency and that

1 residency is verified by the department. Verification may
2 include, but is not limited to the production of rent receipts,
3 mortgage payment receipts, utility receipts, bank accounts or
4 enrollment of children in local schools. General assistance
5 applicants must establish that they have been residents of the
6 Commonwealth for at least twelve months immediately preceding
7 their application[.] and they are not receiving assistance from
8 any other state. General assistance applicants shall disclose,
9 in their application, all states in which they have resided in <--
10 the last five years and in which they have collected a form of
11 public assistance IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. The provisions of this <--
12 subsection shall not apply to General Assistance applicants who
13 can establish that they moved to this Commonwealth to escape an
14 abusive living situation. The department shall adopt rules
15 governing the proof required to establish that the applicant has
16 moved to this Commonwealth to escape an abusive living
17 situation.

18 (a.1) When a general assistance applicant provides
19 information that the applicant has collected a form of public
20 assistance in another state, the Commonwealth shall notify the
21 other state of the change in residency of the applicant.

22 (b) For the purpose of determining eligibility for
23 assistance, the continued absence of a recipient from the
24 Commonwealth for a period of thirty days or longer shall be
25 prima facie evidence of the intent of the recipient to have
26 changed his residence to a place outside the Commonwealth.

27 (c) If a recipient is prevented by illness or other good
28 cause from returning to the Commonwealth at the end of thirty
29 days, and has not acted to establish residence elsewhere, he
30 shall not be deemed to have lost his residence in the

1 Commonwealth.

2 (d) When a recipient of aid to families with dependent
3 children or general assistance is absent from the United States
4 for a period in excess of thirty days, his aid shall thereafter
5 be suspended whenever need cannot be determined for the ensuing
6 period of his absence.

7 (e) Beginning no later than September 1, 1994, the
8 department shall collect information on all general assistance
9 applicants to determine how long they have been residents of
10 this Commonwealth. The department shall report its findings to
11 the Governor and the General Assembly no later than December 31,
12 1995. Based on its findings, the department may make
13 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on
14 changes to the residency requirement for general assistance
15 recipients.

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