AN ACT

Establishing the COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering Business Grant Program and the COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering Business Grant Fund to provide grants to restaurant businesses impacted by COVID-19.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering Business Grant Program Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Department." The Department of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth.

"Fund." The COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering Business Grant Fund established under section 4.

"Proclamation of disaster emergency." The proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

"Program." The COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering Business Grant Program established under section 3(a).

"Restaurant business." A nonfranchise employer in this Commonwealth that satisfies all of the following criteria:

(1) The employer has a 72251, 72241, 722320 or 722330 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) designation from the United States Census Bureau.

(2) The employer's gross annual receipts for the prior fiscal year did not exceed $5,000,000.

Section 3. Establishment of program.

(a) Establishment.--The COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering Business Grant Program is established within the department.

(b) Duties of department.--The department shall provide grants under the program in accordance with this act to restaurant businesses that are adversely affected financially due to the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, identified in the proclamation of disaster emergency.

Section 4. Establishment of fund.

The COVID-19 Community Restaurant and Catering Business Grant Fund is established as a special fund in the State Treasury. Money appropriated under section 11 shall be deposited into the
fund to be used exclusively by the department to award grants to
restaurant businesses under the program.

Section 5. Grant application forms.

(a) Development.--The department shall develop a grant
application form for restaurant businesses to apply for a grant
under the program. At a minimum, the grant application form
shall contain the following information:

(1) The name, address and contact information of the
restaurant business.

(2) The amount of grant money requested under the
program.

(3) The proposed use for the grant money requested under
the program.

(4) The financial impact on the restaurant business
due to the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, identified
in the proclamation of disaster emergency.

(5) Any other information that the department deems
necessary and appropriate.

(b) Submission.--A restaurant business must submit the grant
application form under subsection (a) to the department in a
manner prescribed to be eligible for a grant under the program.

Section 6. Award of grants.

(a) Review.--No later 20 days after receipt of the grant
application form under section 5(a), the department shall review
the grant application form, determine whether to award a grant
to the restaurant business under the program and determine the
amount of the grant money to be awarded to the restaurant
business if applicable.

(b) Considerations.--In determining the amount of the grant
money to be awarded to the restaurant business, the following
shall apply:

(1) The department shall consider all of the following:

(i) The geographic and demographic diversity of the restaurant business.

(ii) How the restaurant business and the surrounding community of the restaurant business would be served through the award of the grant money to the business.

(2) The department may require documentation and information regarding the gross annual receipts and employees of the restaurant business.

(c) Notice.--After conducting a review and making a determination on a grant application under subsection (a), the department shall provide written notice to the restaurant business of the award or denial of a grant under the program. Notice of the award of a grant under the program shall include the amount of the grant money awarded and any conditions or restrictions on the use of the grant money. Notice of the denial of all or part of the grant money requested under the program in the grant application shall include the reasons for the full or partial denial.

Section 7. Public notice.

The department shall provide information regarding the availability and award of grants under the program on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

Section 8. Limitation on award of grants.

Subject to the availability of funding, a grant to a restaurant business under the program shall not exceed $20,000.

Section 9. Reports.

(a) Preparation.--No later than 60 days after the notice is published under section 12(a), the department shall prepare a
report that lists each restaurant business that received grant
money under the program and a summary of the information
specified in each grant application under section 5(a).
(b) Publication.--The department shall post the report under
subsection (a) on the department's publicly accessible Internet
website.
Section 10. Guidelines.
The department may promulgate guidelines for the
implementation and administration of this act.
Section 11. Appropriation.
In addition to any other money made available to the
Commonwealth for COVID-19 relief, the sum of $100,000,000 of the
money available to the Commonwealth under the CARES Act is
appropriated to the department for the purpose of awarding
grants under the program.
Section 12. Expiration.
The authority of the department to award grants under the
program shall expire 30 days after the termination or expiration
of the proclamation of disaster emergency.
Section 13. Effective date.
This act shall take effect in 30 days.