INTRODUCED BY KILLION, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

AN ACT

Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), entitled "An act relating to the finances of the State government; providing for cancer control, prevention and research, for ambulatory surgical center data collection, for the Joint Underwriting Association, for entertainment business financial management firms, for private dam financial assurance and for reinstatement of item vetoes; providing for the settlement, assessment, collection, and lien of taxes, bonus, and all other accounts due the Commonwealth, the collection and recovery of fees and other money or property due or belonging to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof, including escheated property and the proceeds of its sale, the custody and disbursement or other disposition of funds and securities belonging to or in the possession of the Commonwealth, and the settlement of claims against the Commonwealth, the resettlement of accounts and appeals to the courts, refunds of moneys erroneously paid to the Commonwealth, auditing the accounts of the Commonwealth and all agencies thereof, of all public officers collecting moneys payable to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof, and all receipts of appropriations from the Commonwealth, authorizing the Commonwealth to issue tax anticipation notes to defray current expenses, implementing the provisions of section 7(a) of Article VIII of the Constitution of Pennsylvania authorizing and restricting the incurring of certain debt and imposing penalties; affecting every department, board, commission, and officer of the State government, every political subdivision of the State, and certain officers of such subdivisions, every person, association, and corporation required to pay, assess, or collect taxes, or to make returns or reports under the laws imposing taxes for State purposes, or to pay license fees or other moneys to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof, every State depository and every debtor or creditor of the Commonwealth," in emergency COVID-19 response, providing for
appropriations from the account, for Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority, for Low-Income Energy Assistance Residential Utility Payment Program and for the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

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

Section 1. Article I-C of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, is amended by adding subarticles to read:

SUBARTICLE B.1

APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE ACCOUNT

Section 115-C. Definitions.

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

"Current fiscal year." The fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021.


Each appropriation contained under this subarticle from the General Fund shall be in addition to any appropriation under the act of May 29, 2020 (P.L. , No.1A), known as the General Appropriation Act of 2020, and the act of May 29, 2020 (P.L. ,No.2A), known as the COVID-19 Emergency Supplement to the General Appropriation Act of 2019.

Section 117-C. Appropriations from the account.

(a) Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.--To the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority for the current fiscal year, $25,000,000 of Federal amounts is appropriated from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account for COVID Relief - PennVEST Water and Wastewater Utility Payments Program for the purpose of making distributions under section 20200SB1307PN1929

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136-C.

(b) Department of Human Services.--To the Department of Human Services for the current fiscal year, $100,000,000 of Federal amounts is appropriated from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account for COVID Relief - Low-Income Energy Assistance Residential Utility Payment Program for the purpose of making distributions under section 161-C.

(c) Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.--To the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the current fiscal year, $25,000,000 of Federal amounts is appropriated from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account for COVID Relief - Small Business Utility Assistance Program for the purpose of making distributions under section 190.5-C.

SUBARTICLE D.2

PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Section 136-C. Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Water and Wastewater Utility Payments Program.

From money appropriated to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority for COVID Relief - PennVEST Water and Wastewater Utility Payments Program, $25,000,000 shall be distributed to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Authority to assist individual and small businesses with payment of delinquent water and wastewater utility payments. In making the distribution under this section and notwithstanding the provisions of section 10(e) of the act of March 1, 1988 (P.L.82, No.16), known as the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Act, or any other law, the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority shall:

(1) Receive from each water and wastewater provider within 15 days, the number of and total arrearages for
residential customers in their service territory for the period of April 1, 2020, to July 31, 2020. The amount of arrearages shall be signed and verified by a representative of the water and wastewater provider and shall be subject to audit upon request by the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

(2) Distribute CARES funding to each water or wastewater provider on a pro rata basis from the calculation determined under paragraph (1) within 15 days.

(3) Require each water and wastewater provider to submit within 30 days a plan to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority detailing the distribution of funds to residential customers. Upon approval of the plan, the water or wastewater provider may distribute the grant funding according to the plan and, in the event of remaining grant funds, use funds for small business customers.

(4) Require each water or wastewater provider to report within three months of receipt of the money to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority how the money was allocated, how many customers were assisted, how much assistance was received, the remaining arrearages from paragraph (1) and new arrearages since the assistance was provided.

(5) Compile the reports and post the compilation on the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority's publicly accessible Internet website.

Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 161-C. Low-Income Energy Assistance Residential Utility Payment Program.

From money appropriated to the department for COVID Relief -
Low-Income Energy Assistance Residential Utility Payment Program, $100,000,000 shall be distributed through the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program to provide utility security for residential utility customers. In making the distribution under this section, the Department of Human Services shall:

(1) Extend the enrollment period for applications until all funds allocated under this section are expended.

(2) Amend crisis grant requirements to accept past-due utility bills as evidence of a crisis.

(3) Allow a public utility to establish flexible verification procedures.

(4) Permit applicants to calculate their income based on recent changes to income or unemployment.

(5) Establish a temporary program of crisis grant assistance equal to $600 utilizing paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) for households with dwelling units occupied by persons with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal poverty guidelines.

(6) Include the distribution under this section in the LIHEAP annual report.

Section 3. Article I-C of the act is amended by adding a subarticle to read:

SUBARTICLE L

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Section 190.5-C. Small Business Utility Assistance Program. From money appropriated to the commission for COVID Relief - Small Business Utility Assistance Program, $25,000,000 shall be distributed to public utilities to provide small business assistance grants to qualifying small business for the payment of utility expenses. To qualify for a small business assistance
grant, the small business must meet the definition of a "small
business customer" under 52 Pa. Code Ch. 54 (relating to
electricity generation customer choice) or 62 (relating to
natural gas supply customer choice). In making the distribution
under this section, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
shall administer the temporary grant program by:

(1) Requiring each public utility to submit within 15
days, the number of and total arrearages for qualifying small
business customers in their service territory for the period
of April 1, 2020, to July 31, 2020.

(2) Distributing the money to each public utility on a
pro rata basis from the calculation determined under
paragraph (1) within 15 days.

(3) Requiring each public utility to submit within 30
days a plan to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
detailing the distribution of funds to qualifying small
businesses. Upon approval of the plan, the public utility may
distribute the grant funding according to the plan.

(4) Requiring each public utility to report within three
months of receipt of the money to the Pennsylvania Public
Utility Commission how the money was allocated, how many
businesses were assisted, how much assistance was received,
the remaining arrearages from paragraph (1) and new
arrearages since the assistance was provided.

(5) Compiling the reports and posting the compilation on
the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's publicly
accessible Internet website.

Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.