

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1388 Session of  
1989

INTRODUCED BY BELFANTI, STUBAN, TRELLO, GEIST, MELIO, MICOZZIE,  
McCALL, CAWLEY, FOX, BELARDI, KUKOVICH, SCRIMENTI, HALUSKA,  
COLAFELLA, STABACK, VAN HORNE, GIGLIOTTI, MORRIS, McNALLY,  
RYBAK, SEMMEL, DALEY, JOHNSON, SAURMAN, MRKONIC, PETRARCA,  
KOSINSKI, J. TAYLOR, BUNT, JAMES, RITTER, KASUNIC, PISTELLA,  
VEON, CORRIGAN, OLASZ, BISHOP, PRESTON, HOWLETT AND  
CALTAGIRONE, MAY 2, 1989

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, MAY 2, 1989

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," providing for services of  
4 a hospital-based lifeline program to persons eligible for  
5 medical assistance.

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

8 Section 1. Section 443.4 of the act of June 13, 1967  
9 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, amended  
10 November 28, 1973 (P.L.364, No.128), is amended to read:

11 Section 443.4. Additional Services for Eligible Persons  
12 Other Than the Medically Needy.--(a) Except for the medically  
13 needy, persons eligible for medical assistance may, pursuant to  
14 regulations of the department, also receive dental services,  
15 vision care provided by a physician skilled in diseases of the  
16 eye or by an optometrist prescribed medications, prosthetics and  
17 appliances, ambulance transportation, skilled nursing home care

1 for an unlimited period of time, and other remedial, palliative  
2 or therapeutic services prescribed by or provided under the  
3 direction of a physician or podiatrist.

4 (b) In addition to those services provided in subsection  
5 (a), senior citizens on low, fixed or no income shall be  
6 eligible pursuant to the regulations of the department to  
7 receive services provided by a hospital-based lifeline program  
8 which uses durable medical equipment, upon prescription of the  
9 claimant's physician as medically necessary. The hospital-based  
10 lifeline shall be an emergency response system where the patient  
11 has a home communicator unit which is monitored by a local  
12 hospital (the responder). The responder would be notified  
13 immediately through the home communicator unit in the case of an  
14 emergency. This equipment shall be durable medical equipment.  
15 The responder can know within seconds of a life-threatening  
16 emergency and can dispatch help immediately.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 90 days.