
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2795 Session of
2000

INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, THOMAS, WALKO, STURLA, PRESTON,
L. I. COHEN, LaGROTTA, COY, PISTELLA, WILLIAMS, CAPPABIANCA,
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WASHINGTON, M. COHEN, SEYFERT, RUFFING, WOJNAROSKI, FICHTER,
BELFANTI, ROBERTS, BARRAR, CLARK, TIGUE, HORSEY, LUCYK,
RUBLEY, HARHAI AND FREEMAN, OCTOBER 3, 2000

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
OCTOBER 3, 2000

AN ACT

1 Authorizing the Department of Public Welfare to issue Low-Income
2 Home Energy Assistance Grants; and making an appropriation.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Low-Income
7 Home Energy Assistance Grant Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare of the

1 Commonwealth.

2 "Household." An individual or group of individuals,
3 including related roomers, who live together as one economic
4 unit that customarily pays for its home heating energy either
5 directly to a vendor or indirectly as an undesignated part of
6 rent.

7 "LIHEAP." The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
8 authorized by the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981
9 (Public Law 97-35, 42 U.S.C. § 8621 et seq.) and administered by
10 the Department of Public Welfare.

11 Section 3. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance.

12 (a) Authorization.--The department shall apply for and
13 expend Federal funds for LIHEAP and shall establish the
14 Pennsylvania Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Cash and Crisis
15 Program.

16 (b) Income eligibility requirements.--A household may apply
17 for benefits under the programs established in subsection (a)
18 and shall receive benefits if the household meets the following
19 income eligibility requirements: the household has a dwelling
20 unit occupied by one person with an income below \$14,000, by two
21 persons with an income below \$17,102 and by three or more
22 persons with an income below \$17,102 plus \$3,102 per person in
23 excess of two persons.

24 (c) Amount of grants.--

25 (1) The department shall make crisis and cash awards on
26 a sliding scale based on household income with grants for
27 each program ranging from a minimum of \$50 for each type of
28 grant to a maximum of \$300.

29 (2) The department shall establish guidelines to
30 prioritize available funds for potential eligible households

1 of a weatherization component.

2 (3) If any LIHEAP recipient is not eligible under
3 Federal eligibility guidelines for a LIHEAP cash or crisis
4 grant or if there are not enough Federal funds to assist all
5 eligible households under Federal rules and regulations, then
6 the department shall issue State grants up to the maximum
7 level under paragraph (1).

8 Section 4. Regulations.

9 The department shall promulgate rules and regulations
10 necessary to implement this act.

11 Section 5. Appropriation.

12 The sum of \$10,000,000, or as much thereof as may be
13 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Department of Public
14 Welfare for the payment of benefits under the Low-Income Home
15 Energy Assistance Program authorized by this act.

16 Section 6. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect in 60 days.