

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, ZIMMERMAN, HICKERNELL, WARD, GROVE, FEE, MILNE, SAYLOR, HEFFLEY, A. HARRIS, KLUNK, D. COSTA, JOZWIAK, COX, DAVIS, BOBACK, RADER, WARNER, SIMMONS, KRIEGER, PASHINSKI AND GABLER, JUNE 10, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 10, 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
17 residency is verified by the department. Verification may

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

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

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

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

30 (d) When a recipient of aid to families with dependent

1 children or general assistance is absent from the United States
2 for a period in excess of thirty days, his aid shall thereafter
3 be suspended whenever need cannot be determined for the ensuing
4 period of his absence.

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

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