

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2679 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, YOUNGBLOOD, BROOKS, HELM, FLYNN, ROTHMAN, MURT, HANBIDGE, DONATUCCI, READSHAW, HOWARD AND SCHLEGEL CULVER, JULY 8, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, JULY 8, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 19, 1990 (P.L.1234, No.204),
 2 entitled "An act establishing a program to assist persons who
 3 bear primary responsibility for the at-home care of
 4 functionally dependent older adults and victims of chronic
 5 dementia," further providing for primary caregiver support
 6 program.

7 The General Assembly recognizes that:

8 (1) There is an enormous need in this Commonwealth for
 9 services to assist families that provide at-home care to
 10 functionally dependent older adults and other adults who are
 11 victims of chronic dementia such as Alzheimer's disease.

12 (2) Most care provided for such individuals is delivered
 13 by family members. Family involvement is a critical element
 14 for avoiding or postponing institutionalization of
 15 functionally dependent older adults or those adults who are
 16 victims of a chronic dementia such as Alzheimer's disease.

17 (3) Primary caregivers who provide continuous care in
 18 the home are frequently under substantial physical,
 19 psychological and financial stress. Respite care and other

1 supportive services for the caregiver could relieve some of
2 the stress while maintaining and strengthening the family
3 structure.

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

6 Section 1. Section 4(c) of the act of December 19, 1990
7 (P.L.1234, No.204), known as the Family Caregiver Support Act,
8 is amended to read:

9 Section 4. Primary caregiver support program.

10 * * *

11 (c) Supportive services.--The department shall identify by
12 regulation supportive services which are directly related to the
13 provision of care to the care receiver. Supportive services
14 include, but are not limited to:

15 (1) Benefits counseling and primary caregiver
16 counseling, education and training.

17 (2) Reimbursement to primary caregivers whose care
18 receivers' households financially qualify for assistance
19 under section 5 and as set forth through regulation for
20 expenses incurred in obtaining day or night respite care
21 services, transportation to respite care service locations or
22 other supportive services defined by regulation, and
23 consumable supplies such as incontinence pads.

24 (3) Reimbursement to primary caregivers whose care
25 receivers' households financially qualify for assistance
26 under section 5 and as developed through regulation for
27 expenses incurred in obtaining home modifications or
28 assistive devices as approved by the department which help
29 the care receiver to carry out tasks required for daily
30 living such as grab bars, safety devices and wheelchair

1 ramps.

2 (4) Respite care services of up to three hours per week
3 in order for care receivers to attend an older adult daily
4 living center as defined in section 2 of the act of July 11,
5 1990 (P.L.499, No.118), known as the Older Adult Daily Living
6 Centers Licensing Act.

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