

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2692 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, MARSHALL, PISCIOTTANO, T. DAVIS, KINSEY,
FREEMAN, GUENST, SCHLOSSBERG, McNEILL, MADDEN, SANCHEZ AND
HOWARD, JUNE 21, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, JUNE 21, 2022

AN ACT

1 Establishing the LIHEAP Advisory Committee.

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

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the LIHEAP
6 Advisory Committee Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

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

11 "Advisory committee." The LIHEAP Advisory Committee
12 established under section 3(a).

13 "Department." The Department of Human Services of the
14 Commonwealth.

15 "Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981." The Low-
16 Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-35, 42
17 U.S.C. § 8621 et seq.).

1 "Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program" or "LIHEAP." A
2 federally funded program that provides financial assistance in
3 the form of cash and crisis grants to low-income households for
4 home energy bills and is administered by the department.

5 "Secretary." The Secretary of Human Services of the
6 Commonwealth.

7 "State plan." The State Plan for LIHEAP prepared by the
8 department as required by section 2605(c) of the Low-Income Home
9 Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. § 8624(c)).

10 Section 3. Advisory committee and legislative oversight.

11 (a) Establishment and purpose.--The LIHEAP Advisory
12 Committee is established to advise the secretary on the
13 administration of the LIHEAP block grant, including a review of
14 the proposed State plan and recommendations on the final State
15 plan.

16 (b) Duty of department.--The department shall review and
17 give deference to the information and recommendations that are
18 provided by the advisory committee and that are not inconsistent
19 with State law.

20 (c) Members.--

21 (1) The members of the advisory committee shall be
22 appointed by the secretary and represent the following:

23 (i) Consumer and advocacy interests.

24 (ii) Participating energy vendors.

25 (iii) Other concerned citizens of this Commonwealth.

26 (2) In addition to the members provided for in paragraph
27 (1), the advisory committee shall include:

28 (i) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
29 Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee
30 of the Senate or their designees.

1 (ii) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
2 Consumer Affairs Committee of the House of
3 Representatives or their designees.

4 (iii) The chairperson and minority chairperson of
5 the Health and Human Services Committee of the Senate or
6 their designees.

7 (iv) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
8 Human Services Committee of the House of Representatives
9 or their designees.

10 (d) Chairperson.--The following apply to the chairperson of
11 the advisory committee:

12 (1) One member of the advisory committee shall serve as
13 the chairperson.

14 (2) The position of chairperson shall change annually.

15 (3) The same member shall not serve as chairperson more
16 than once in any four-year period.

17 (4) For the purpose of selecting a chairperson, the
18 position shall revolve annually among representatives of the
19 consumer and advocacy interests, energy vendors, concerned
20 citizens and legislative members.

21 Section 4. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect immediately.