
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 918 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY MUTH, FONTANA, COMITTA, CAPPELLETTI, KANE, HUGHES,
BREWSTER AND L. WILLIAMS, OCTOBER 27, 2021

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, OCTOBER 27, 2021

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 uniformity in administration of
5 assistance and regulations as to assistance.

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

8 Section 1. Section 403(b) of the act of June 13, 1967
9 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, is amended to
10 read:

11 Section 403. Uniformity in Administration of Assistance;
12 Regulations as to Assistance.--* * *

13 (b) (1) The department shall establish rules, regulations
14 and standards, consistent with the law, as to eligibility for
15 assistance and as to its nature and extent. The department is
16 authorized to seek waivers from the Federal Government to
17 enhance consistency between Federal program standards,
18 requirements or procedures. This shall not be interpreted to
19 require the department to seek waivers to achieve consistency

1 among standards, requirements or procedures in Federal programs,
2 except as specifically required under other provisions in this
3 article. Whenever possible, except for residency requirements
4 for general assistance, and consistent with State law, the
5 department shall establish rules, regulations and standards for
6 general assistance consistent with those established for aid to
7 families with dependent children. In no instance shall the
8 rules, regulations and standards established for general
9 assistance provide for assistance greater than that provided for
10 aid to families with dependent children. If three or more
11 general assistance recipients reside together in the same
12 household, their income eligibility and cash assistance shall be
13 no greater than income eligibility and cash assistance from aid
14 to families with dependent children for a household of the same
15 size. The secretary or a written designee is the only person
16 authorized to adopt regulations, orders, or standards of general
17 application to implement, interpret, or make specific the law
18 administered by the department. The secretary shall issue
19 interim regulations whenever changes in Federal laws and
20 regulations supersede existing statutes. In adopting
21 regulations, orders, or standards of general application, the
22 secretary shall strive for clarity of language which may be
23 readily understood by those administering assistance and by
24 those who apply for or receive assistance. For the purpose of
25 this subsection, the term "household" does not include single-
26 room occupancy residences, rooming houses, nonprofit residential
27 programs or personal care facilities receiving charitable
28 funding or Federal, State or local government funding.

29 (2) The department shall establish rules, regulations and
30 standards for the maximum monthly cash assistance received by a

1 recipient or assistance group under this article to be equal to
2 fifty percent of the Federal poverty level, based upon the
3 applicable household size and composition, as determined
4 annually by the United States Department of Health and Human
5 Services. The maximum monthly cash benefit shall be annually
6 adjusted for inflation as the percentage change in the United
7 States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer
8 Price Index for All Urban Consumers, not seasonally adjusted,
9 all items index, or its successor index.

10 * * *

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