
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1146 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY KEARNEY, CAPPELLETTI, MUTH, L. WILLIAMS, SAVAL,
STREET AND KANE, APRIL 1, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
APRIL 1, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 54 (Names) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, providing for Compassionate Name Change Assistance
3 Grant Program and for powers and duties of Department of
4 Community and Economic Development; establishing the
5 Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Fund; and making
6 an appropriation.

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

9 Section 1. Title 54 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
10 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

11 CHAPTER 7A

12 COMPASSIONATE NAME CHANGE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

13 Sec.

14 § 7A01. Definitions.

15 § 7A02. Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Program.

16 § 7A03. Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Fund.

17 § 7A04. Administration.

18 § 7A01. Definitions.

19 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
4 Development of the Commonwealth.

5 "Eligible applicant." A nonprofit organization or a county
6 or municipal government.

7 "Eligible assistance program." A program providing supports
8 and guidance, which is informational, emotional, social, legal
9 or otherwise in nature, to individuals who confront biases or
10 inequalities based on gender or sexual stereotypes in navigating
11 the name change process in the Commonwealth.

12 "Fund." The Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Fund
13 established under section 7A03 (relating to Compassionate Name
14 Change Assistance Grant Fund).

15 "Grant program." The Compassionate Name Change Assistance
16 Grant Program established under section 7A02 (relating to
17 Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Program).

18 "Nonprofit organization." A corporation or other entity
19 based in this Commonwealth which is an exempt organization as
20 defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
21 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)).

22 § 7A02. Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Program.

23 (a) Establishment.--The Compassionate Name Change Assistance
24 Grant Program is established as a competitive grant program
25 within the department.

26 (b) Eligible uses of the funds.--Grants under the grant
27 program may only be used for the costs of administering an
28 eligible assistance program.

29 (c) Department powers and duties.--The department has the
30 following powers and duties:

1 (1) The department shall provide grants under the grant
2 program in accordance with this chapter to eligible
3 applicants to administer eligible assistance programs.

4 (2) The department shall determine the form and manner
5 by which an eligible applicant may apply for funding under
6 section 7A04 (relating to administration). The application
7 shall be posted on the department's publicly accessible
8 Internet website.

9 (3) The department may establish guidelines for
10 implementing the grant program under this section. The
11 guidelines shall be posted on the department's publicly
12 accessible Internet website.

13 § 7A03. Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Fund.

14 (a) Establishment.--The Compassionate Name Change Assistance
15 Grant Fund is established as a separate account in the State
16 Treasury.

17 (b) Appropriation.--All money deposited in the fund and the
18 interest the money accrues shall be appropriated to the
19 department on a continuing basis to award grants under this
20 chapter. The appropriation shall not lapse at the end of any
21 fiscal year.

22 (c) Transfers from General Fund.--In addition to any amounts
23 otherwise authorized to be appropriated or made available to the
24 fund for the grant program, the sum of \$2,000,000 is
25 appropriated to the fund from the General Fund to fund the grant
26 program.

27 (d) Appropriation by the General Assembly.--Beginning with
28 the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the General Assembly may appropriate
29 money to the fund.

30 (e) Administrative costs.--No more than one percent of the

1 fund may be used for reasonable administrative costs.

2 § 7A04. Administration.

3 (a) Applications.--An application for a grant under this
4 chapter shall be submitted by an eligible applicant in the form
5 and manner prescribed by the department.

6 (b) Application period.--Beginning no later than 180 days
7 after the effective date of this chapter, the department shall
8 begin accepting and processing applications on a rolling basis
9 until the grant program funding available for the fiscal year
10 has been exhausted.

11 (c) Review process.--The department shall review
12 applications and make awards subject to subsection (d) on a
13 rolling basis. The department shall approve or deny an
14 application no later than 30 days after the receipt of the
15 application. An eligible applicant may revise and resubmit a
16 denied application to the department.

17 (d) Allocation.--An eligible applicant may not receive more
18 than the following amounts in any fiscal year:

19 (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3):

20 (i) The minimum grant amount awarded shall be no
21 less than \$5,000.

22 (ii) The maximum grant amount awarded may not be
23 more than \$100,000.

24 (2) The department may award a grant of no more than
25 \$75,000 to eligible applicants that are headquartered within
26 a city of the first or second class.

27 (3) The department may award a grant of between \$75,001
28 and \$100,000 inclusive to eligible applicants that are:

29 (i) headquartered outside of a city of the first or
30 second class; or

1 (ii) implementing a new eligible assistance program
2 for the first time in the same fiscal year for which the
3 grant is awarded.

4 (e) Limitations.--The following apply to grant applications:

5 (1) The department may not provide grants in excess of
6 the amount of the fund.

7 (2) The department may prorate the grant amount to an
8 eligible applicant.

9 (3) The department may only award a grant to an eligible
10 applicant that establishes to the department that the
11 administration of its eligible assistance program involves at
12 least one resident of Pennsylvania who identifies as
13 transgender or nonbinary with specialized experience in
14 assisting individuals who confront biases or inequalities
15 based on gender or sexual stereotypes in navigating the name
16 change process in the Commonwealth.

17 (f) Evaluation.--The department shall evaluate the
18 utilization of the grant program money, including an analysis of
19 the total amount of grants awarded, each eligible applicant that
20 received a grant and the efficacy of the eligible assistance
21 programs funded through the grant program, based on
22 disaggregated data. The department shall conduct the evaluation,
23 at a minimum, every three years after the establishment of the
24 grant program and shall post the evaluation on the department's
25 publicly accessible Internet website.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.