

AT-RISK ELDERLY WIRELESS EMERGENCY TELEPHONE PROGRAM ACT

Act of Jul. 7, 2006, P.L. 356, No. 76

Cl. 71

AN ACT

Establishing the At-Risk Elderly Wireless Emergency Telephone Program; conferring powers and duties on the Department of Aging; and providing additional powers to the area agencies on aging.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the At-Risk Elderly Wireless Emergency Telephone Program Act.

Section 2. Legislative intent.

The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

(1) The General Assembly intends to establish a program that provides at-risk elderly persons with wireless emergency telephone service to provide immediate access to the 911 emergency telephone number as well as the appropriate protective services unit at area agencies on aging.

(2) This act authorizes the Department of Aging to develop a request for proposal for the purpose of entering into a public-private partnership with a wireless telecommunications provider.

(3) This act will provide at-risk elderly persons living independently in the community the access to emergency contacts through the use of wireless telecommunications systems allowing the at-risk elderly persons to continue to live independently with the means to access necessary emergency services.

Section 3. Definitions.

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

"AAA." An area agency on aging, which acts as the local representative of the Department of Aging.

"At-risk elderly person." A person who is at least 60 years of age and has been identified by the area agency on aging as a person who is susceptible to or has a high probability of incurring a danger to that person's daily living routine.

"Department." The Department of Aging of the Commonwealth.

"Eligible participant." A person who is at least 60 years of age, who has been a resident of this Commonwealth for at least 90 days and who is classified as at risk as identified by an area agency on aging.

"Program." The At-Risk Elderly Wireless Emergency Telephone Program.

"Request for proposal" or "RFP." As defined in 62 Pa.C.S. § 103 (relating to definitions).

Section 4. At-Risk Elderly Wireless Emergency Telephone Program.

The At-Risk Elderly Wireless Emergency Telephone Program is established. The department shall administer the program and develop an RFP to provide each AAA the opportunity to enter into a public-private partnership with wireless telecommunications carriers to provide at-risk elderly persons with immediate access to 911 emergency services as well as the appropriate protective services unit.

Section 5. Program guidelines.

(a) Local guidelines.--Each AAA that participates in the program shall establish specific guidelines regarding the administrative and operating procedures of the program, including the acceptance of eligible participants and carrying out the RFP process. Participation by an AAA in the program shall be at the option of the AAA.

(b) Services.--The RFP shall describe the wireless carrier services sought, including, but not limited to, free wireless service to the 911 emergency telephone number and the appropriate local protective services unit telephone number.

Section 6. Powers and duties of department.

(a) Cooperation.--The department in cooperation with the Department of General Services shall develop an RFP pursuant to the requirements of 62 Pa.C.S. § 513 (relating to competitive sealed proposals).

(b) Project description.--The department shall provide each AAA with a complete program description and the procurement policies and procedures developed by the department.

(c) Public notice.--The department shall publicize the program to the aging community.

(d) Technical assistance.--The department shall provide technical assistance through program implementation to each AAA as needed.

Section 7. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.