

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1444 Session of
1975

INTRODUCED BY BARBER, RICHARDSON, VANN AND OLIVER, JUNE 11, 1975

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, JUNE 12, 1975

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," providing for rent
4 security deposits for recipients.

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

7 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
8 as the "Public Welfare Code," is amended by adding a section to
9 read:

10 Section 408.1. Rent Security Deposits for Public Assistance
11 Recipients.--(a) Whenever a landlord requires that he be secured
12 against nonpayment of rent or for damages as a condition to
13 renting or continuing to rent a housing accommodation to a
14 recipient of public assistance, including general assistance and
15 supplemental security income recipients including recipients of
16 supplemental security income State supplements, the department
17 shall in accordance with regulations of the department, secure
18 the landlord by depositing money in an escrow account, not under
19 the control of the landlord or his agent, subject to the terms

1 and conditions of an agreement between the landlord and the
2 department in such form as the department may require or
3 approve. Except as expressly provided in subsection (b), it
4 shall be against the public policy of the Commonwealth, for the
5 department to pay money to a landlord to be held as a security
6 deposit against the nonpayment of rent or for damages by a
7 public assistance recipient.

8 (b) When, however, in the judgment of the department, safe
9 and decent housing accommodations available in a particular area
10 are insufficient to properly accommodate recipients of public
11 assistance in need of housing, and, in order to secure such
12 housing, it is essential that they pay money to landlords to be
13 held as security deposits against the nonpayment of rent or for
14 damages by public assistance recipients, or to issue grants to
15 recipients of public assistance therefore, the department shall
16 pay or furnish funds for such security deposits or such other
17 funds as are necessary to insure a safe, decent and adequate
18 housing supply until sufficient, safe and adequate housing
19 accommodations are available in the particular area to properly
20 accommodate recipients of public assistance in need of housing.