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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**

**No. 1641** Session of  
1983

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INTRODUCED BY IRVIS, MANDERINO, WACHOB, TRELLO, KUKOVICH,  
HOEFFEL, RICHARDSON, PRESTON, PETRONE, MISCEVICH, PISTELLA,  
BARBER, FATTAH, LINTON, RYBAK AND HARPER, OCTOBER 26, 1983

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, OCTOBER 26, 1983

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AN ACT

1 Providing emergency shelter assistance to certain individuals  
2 and families.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Emergency  
7 Shelter Assistance Act.

8 Section 2. Purpose.

9 The General Assembly finds that during this period of high  
10 unemployment in this Commonwealth, many families and  
11 individuals, through no fault of their own, cannot provide for  
12 their basic shelter needs. In order to alleviate suffering and  
13 promote the health and safety of homeless families and  
14 individuals in dire need, the General Assembly hereby  
15 establishes a program of emergency shelter assistance to be  
16 administered by the Department of Public Welfare.

17 Section 3. Determination of eligibility and application for

1 emergency shelter assistance.

2 In order to qualify for emergency shelter assistance, an  
3 individual or family cannot be receiving cash assistance and  
4 cannot have income which exceeds the income level for cash  
5 assistance provided under the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,  
6 No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, for an assistance unit  
7 of the same size. The department through each county board of  
8 assistance shall be responsible for accepting applications for  
9 emergency shelter assistance and determining eligibility for  
10 assistance immediately upon application and in no less than  
11 three working days of application for shelter assistance.

12 Section 4. Voucher for emergency shelter assistance.

13 In order to alleviate or prevent homelessness, the department  
14 is authorized to issue a voucher in the amount of no more than  
15 \$150 per month for an individual and for no more than \$20 for  
16 each additional person in the assistance unit, up to a maximum  
17 of \$200 per month. The department is authorized to issue an  
18 emergency shelter assistance voucher for up to four months to  
19 provide shelter to eligible individuals and families. The  
20 department shall by regulation establish a system of vouchers to  
21 be used by eligible individuals and families for the purchase of  
22 shelter.

23 Section 5. Federal financial participation.

24 To the extent that Federal funds are available for any  
25 emergency shelter assistance provided under this act, the  
26 Department of Public Welfare shall make timely application for  
27 Federal reimbursement.

28 Section 6. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect immediately.