
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 629

Session of
1983

INTRODUCED BY JUBELIRER, HOPPER, SHAFFER, HELFRICK, CORMAN,
PECORA, LOEPER, REIBMAN, RHOADES, ANDREZESKI AND BRIGHTBILL,
APRIL 12, 1983

SENATOR TILGHMAN, APPROPRIATIONS, RE-REPORTED AS AMENDED,
MAY 8, 1984

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Senior Center Grant Program; providing for
2 grants to senior centers; imposing powers and duties on the
3 Department of Aging; and making an appropriation.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Senior Center
8 Grant Program Act.

9 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

10 (a) Purpose of program.--The purpose of the senior center
11 program in Pennsylvania is to facilitate the social, emotional
12 and physical well-being of older Pennsylvanians by the
13 establishment of and support for community-based services and
14 activities. Senior center programs are designed to enhance the
15 dignity, support the independence and encourage the involvement
16 of senior citizens in the community.

17 (b) Facilities.--In order to achieve this purpose, a

1 facility must be in a physical condition which provides an
2 atmosphere conducive to the functions of a senior center. The
3 center should be in compliance with all government safety
4 standards.

5 (c) Use of grants.--By establishment of the Senior Center
6 Grant Program, the General Assembly intends that grants provided
7 under this act be used to provide a physical facility conducive
8 to the achievement of these goals as well as other purposes.

9 Section 3. Definitions.

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

13 "Area agency on aging." An agency designated by the
14 Department of Aging to administer and develop an area plan for a
15 comprehensive and coordinated system of services for older
16 people within the boundaries of a defined planning and service
17 area.

18 "Department." The Department of Aging.

19 "Program." Senior Center Grant Program.

20 "Senior center." A facility ~~owned and operated by a~~ ←
21 ~~nonprofit organization, religious group or public agency in~~
22 ~~which~~ WHERE older people gather and where services are delivered ←
23 in accordance with the policies and standards promulgated by the
24 department.

25 Section 4. Establishment of the Senior Center Grant Program.

26 There is hereby created a special Senior Center Grant
27 Program. The purpose of the program shall be to provide a one-
28 time grant to senior centers for rehabilitation and renovation
29 of these facilities.

30 Section 5. Grant applications.

1 Grant applications shall be developed by the department and
2 distributed to all area agencies on aging. The regional area
3 agency on aging shall assist the senior center applying for a
4 grant under this act in completing the applications and verify,
5 in writing, on the grant application that the application
6 complies with all the requirements of section 6. The area agency
7 on aging shall then forward the application to the department
8 for their approval.

9 Section 6. Grant requirements.

10 ~~(a) Eligibility. Grants shall be given by the department to~~ <—
11 ~~applying senior centers provided the grant is for any or all of~~
12 ~~the following purposes:~~

13 (A) ELIGIBILITY.--GRANTS SHALL BE GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT TO <—
14 LOCAL AREA AGENCIES ON AGING FOR APPLYING SENIOR CENTERS WHICH
15 HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE APPROPRIATE AREA AGENCY ON AGING.
16 GRANTS SHALL BE GIVEN FOR ANY AND ALL OF THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES
17 IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER OR PRIORITY:

18 (1) To comply with the act of April 27, 1927 (P.L.465,
19 No.299), referred to as the Fire and Panic Act, and other
20 applicable Federal, State or local safety standards and other
21 laws so designated by directives promulgated by the
22 department.

23 (2) To comply with the act of September 1, 1965
24 (P.L.459, No.235), entitled "An act requiring that certain
25 buildings and facilities constructed with Commonwealth funds
26 adhere to certain principles, standards and specifications to
27 make the same accessible to and usable by the physically
28 handicapped, and providing for enforcement," and section 504
29 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to modify the
30 senior center to make it accessible to the handicapped as to <—

1 designated by directives promulgated by the department.

2 (3) To assure that the senior center is in a condition
3 that provides for the health, welfare and safety of senior
4 citizens as determined by directives promulgated by the
5 department.

6 ~~(b) Maximum grant. Grants issued pursuant to this act shall~~ <—
7 ~~be for a maximum of \$20,000. No senior center may obtain a grant~~
8 ~~or grants in the aggregate which exceeds \$20,000.~~

9 (B) LEASED FACILITIES.--SENIOR CENTER FACILITIES WHICH ARE <—
10 RENOVATED WITH FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING SHALL HAVE
11 WRITTEN LEASES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FOR EACH \$5,000 WORTH OF
12 RENOVATIONS PERFORMED AT THE CENTER UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 10 YEARS.

13 Section 7. Powers and duties of department.

14 The powers and duties of the department shall be:

15 (1) To accept grants from the Federal Government and any
16 other individual, agency or government for use in the
17 program.

18 (2) To promulgate such rules, regulations and directives
19 as it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this
20 act.

21 Section 8. Appropriation.

22 ~~For fiscal year 1983-1984, the sum of \$10,000,000 is hereby~~ <—
23 ~~appropriated out of the State Lottery Fund to the Department of~~
24 ~~Aging for the Senior Center Grant Program. Of this amount,~~
25 ~~\$8,000,000 shall be allocated pursuant to the provisions of the~~
26 ~~allocation formula set forth in section 2210 A(a) of the act of~~
27 ~~April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative~~
28 ~~Code of 1929, and \$1,800,000 shall be withheld by the department~~
29 ~~for disposition in accordance with the provisions of section 6.~~
30 ~~The remaining \$200,000 may be used by the department and the~~

1 ~~area agencies on aging for administration of the program. The~~
2 ~~appropriation made by this section shall not lapse and shall~~
3 ~~remain available until expended.~~

4 (A) ALLOCATION.--FOR FISCAL YEAR 1984-1985, THE SUM OF ←
5 \$10,100,000 IS APPROPRIATED OUT OF THE STATE LOTTERY FUND TO THE
6 DEPARTMENT OF AGING FOR THE SENIOR CENTER GRANT PROGRAM TO BE
7 DISBURSED AS FOLLOWS:

8 (1) THE SUM OF \$8,000,000 IS ALLOCATED TO INSURE THAT
9 EACH AREA AGENCY ON AGING SHALL RECEIVE AN ALLOCATION
10 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ALLOCATION FORMULA SET
11 FORTH IN SECTION 2210-A(A) OF THE ACT OF APRIL 9, 1929
12 (P.L.177, NO.175), KNOWN AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1929.
13 ANY FUNDS FROM THIS ALLOCATION NOT UTILIZED OR ENCUMBERED
14 WITHIN ONE CALENDAR YEAR OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT
15 SHALL REVERT TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BE REDISTRIBUTED BY THE
16 DEPARTMENT BASED ON PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 6.

17 (2) THE SUM OF \$2,000,000 SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO INSURE
18 THAT EACH AREA AGENCY ON AGING SHALL RECEIVE A MINIMUM OF
19 \$15,000 PER SENIOR CENTER FOLLOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS
20 SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH (1).

21 (3) THE SUM OF \$100,000 MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT
22 AND THE AREA AGENCIES ON AGING FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE
23 PROGRAM.

24 (4) ALL REMAINING FUNDS SHALL BE WITHHELD BY THE
25 DEPARTMENT FOR DISPOSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS
26 OF SECTION 6.

27 (B) DURATION OF APPROPRIATION.--THE APPROPRIATION MADE IN
28 THIS SECTION SHALL NOT LAPSE AND SHALL REMAIN AVAILABLE UNTIL
29 EXPENDED.

30 Section 9. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect immediately.