
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 629

Session of
1983

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

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, JUNE 13, 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 where older people gather and
21 where services are delivered in accordance with the policies and
22 standards promulgated by the department.

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

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

28 Section 5. Grant applications.

29 Grant ~~applications~~ APPLICATION FORMS shall be developed by
30 the department and distributed to all area agencies on aging.

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1 The regional area agency on aging shall assist the senior center
2 applying for a grant under this act in completing the
3 applications and verify, in writing, on the grant application
4 that the application complies with all the requirements of
5 section 6. The area agency on aging shall then forward the
6 application to the department for ~~their~~ ITS approval. EACH ←
7 APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE A WRITTEN REPORT, USING A FORM
8 DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT, ASSESSING THE CONDITION OF THE
9 FACILITY. THE ONSITE INSPECTION SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY AN
10 INSPECTOR DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

11 Section 6. Grant requirements.

12 (a) Eligibility.--Grants NOT EXCEEDING \$50,000 PER CENTER ←
13 shall be given by the department to local area agencies on aging
14 for applying senior centers which have been approved by the
15 appropriate area agency on aging. Grants shall be given for any
16 and all of the following purposes in the following order or
17 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

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. THIS WOULD INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE <—
6 PURCHASE OF FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT FOR THE FACILITY.

7 (b) Leased facilities.--Senior center facilities which are
8 renovated with funds from the Department of Aging shall have
9 written leases for a period ~~of one year for each \$5,000 worth of~~ <—
10 ~~renovations performed at the center up to a maximum of 10 years.~~
11 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF THE <—
12 RENOVATIONS AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LOCAL MARKET CONDITIONS FOR
13 RENTAL PROPERTIES.

14 Section 7. Powers and duties of department.

15 The powers and duties of the department shall be:

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

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

22 Section 8. Appropriation.

23 (a) ~~Allocation~~ FUNDING.--For fiscal year 1984-1985, the sum <—
24 of \$10,100,000 is appropriated out of the State Lottery Fund to
25 the Department of Aging for the Senior Center Grant Program to
26 be disbursed as follows:

27 (1) The sum of \$8,000,000 is allocated to insure that
28 each area agency on aging shall receive an allocation
29 pursuant to the provisions of the allocation formula set
30 forth in section 2210-A(a) of the act of April 9, 1929

1 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929.
2 Any funds from this allocation not utilized or encumbered
3 within one calendar year of the effective date of this act
4 shall revert to the department to be redistributed by the
5 department based on priorities established in section 6.

6 (2) The sum of \$2,000,000 shall be allocated to insure
7 that each area agency on aging shall receive a minimum of
8 \$15,000 per senior center following the distribution of funds
9 set forth in paragraph (1). ANY FUNDS FROM THIS ALLOCATION ←—
10 NOT UTILIZED OR ENCUMBERED WITHIN ONE CALENDAR YEAR OF THE
11 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT SHALL REVERT TO THE DEPARTMENT TO
12 BE REDISTRIBUTED BY THE DEPARTMENT BASED ON PRIORITIES
13 ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 6.

14 (3) The sum of \$100,000 may be used by the department
15 and the area agencies on aging for administration of the
16 program.

17 (4) All remaining funds shall be withheld by the
18 department for disposition in accordance with the provisions
19 of section 6.

20 (b) Duration of appropriation.--The appropriation made in
21 this section shall not lapse and shall remain available until
22 expended.

23 SECTION 9. FUNDING. ←—

24 FUNDING FOR THIS PROGRAM SHALL COME FROM THE STATE LOTTERY
25 FUND AND SHALL BE AN ELIGIBLE USE FOR LOTTERY FUNDS, THE
26 PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 2, 6 AND 12 OF THE ACT OF AUGUST 26, 1971
27 (P.L.351, NO.91), KNOWN AS THE STATE LOTTERY LAW,
28 NOTWITHSTANDING.

29 Section 9 10. Effective date. ←—

30 This act shall take effect immediately.