
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 517 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, BLACKWELL, BRENNAN, GEORGE, JAMES, MELIO,
MURT, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYTON, SHIMKUS AND CONKLIN,
DECEMBER 3, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
DECEMBER 3, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to amend the Personal
2 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
3 1996 to require a high school diploma or general equivalency
4 diploma as a condition of eligibility for benefits under the
5 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

6 WHEREAS, The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
7 Reconciliation Act of 1996 established the Temporary Assistance
8 for Needy Families Program, also known as TANF; and

9 WHEREAS, TANF provides assistance and work opportunities to
10 families in need by providing block grants of Federal funds to
11 states and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own
12 welfare programs; and

13 WHEREAS, The main purposes of TANF are to assist needy
14 families so that their children can be cared for in their own
15 homes, to reduce the dependency of parents who are in need by
16 promoting job preparation, work and marriage, to prevent out-of-
17 wedlock pregnancies and to encourage the formation and
18 maintenance of two-parent families; and

1 WHEREAS, In order to receive assistance and benefits through
2 TANF, parents who are in need must comply with certain work
3 requirements; and

4 WHEREAS, Recipients of TANF can better retain jobs for the
5 long term if they are high school graduates or have a general
6 equivalency diploma, commonly known as a GED; and

7 WHEREAS, TANF does not require recipients to have a high
8 school diploma or GED; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
11 States to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
12 Reconciliation Act of 1996 to require a high school diploma or
13 general equivalency diploma as a condition of eligibility for
14 benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
15 Program; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
17 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
18 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.