

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 254 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY FAIRCHILD, ADOLPH, BAKER, BARRAR, BEAR, BEYER, BOYD, BRENNAN, CIVERA, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, DENLINGER, EACHUS, EVERETT, FLECK, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, GRUCELA, HARKINS, HARRIS, HELM, HESS, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, MCGEEHAN, MCILVAINE SMITH, MICCARELLI, MILLER, MOUL, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, RAPP, REICHLEY, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STERN, VULAKOVICH, WANSACZ, YUDICHAK, ROCK, CAUSER AND MICOZZIE, FEBRUARY 4, 2009

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 11, 2009

## 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 veterans.

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

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

9 Section 215. Veterans.--(a) The department shall make a  
10 good faith effort to determine whether an applicant for cash or  
11 medical assistance is a veteran. While in the process of making  
12 its determination, the department shall dispense benefits to the  
13 applicant, if otherwise eligible.

14 (b) As a condition of eligibility to receive cash or medical



1 assistance, UNLESS THERE IS GOOD CAUSE NOT TO DO SO, an  
2 applicant who is a veteran shall be required to contact a  
3 veteran service officer accredited and recognized by the United  
4 States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of  
5 Military and Veterans Affairs or the county director of veterans  
6 affairs in which the applicant resides in order to determine the  
7 applicant's eligibility for veteran's benefits or to file a  
8 veteran claims packet. The department shall develop a standard  
9 form to be used by a veteran service officer to verify the  
10 applicant's eligibility for veteran benefits.

11 (c) An applicant who is a veteran shall provide proof of  
12 compliance with this section and the department shall, to the  
13 greatest extent possible, require the applicant to provide  
14 information on the final determination of eligibility for  
15 veteran benefits and the type of benefits the veteran is  
16 entitled to receive.

17 (d) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
18 shall have the following meanings:

19 "Assistance" means money, services and payment for medical  
20 coverage for needy persons who are residents of this  
21 Commonwealth, are in need of assistance and meet all conditions  
22 of eligibility.

23 "Veteran claims packet" means an application requesting a  
24 determination or entitlement or evidencing a belief in  
25 entitlement to a benefit as provided for in 38 CFR (relating to  
26 pensions, bonuses, and veterans' relief) or 51 Pa.C.S. (relating  
27 to military affairs).

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.