

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, MICOZZIE AND MURT, FEBRUARY 4, 2009

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARCH 17, 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 OR ENERGY assistance is a veteran. While in the process ←
12 of making its determination, the department shall dispense
13 benefits to the applicant, if otherwise eligible.

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



1 medical OR ENERGY assistance, unless there is good cause not to
2 do so, an applicant who is a veteran shall be required to
3 contact a veteran service officer accredited and recognized by
4 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department
5 of Military and Veterans Affairs or the county director of
6 veterans affairs in which the applicant resides in order to
7 determine the applicant's eligibility for veteran's benefits or
8 to file a veteran claims packet. The department shall develop a
9 standard form to be used by a veteran service officer to verify
10 the 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 OR ENERGY ASSISTANCE for needy persons who are
21 residents of this Commonwealth, are in need of assistance and
22 meet all conditions 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.