

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 934 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIANA, V. BROWN, MILLARD, HELM, KOTIK, MUSTIO, DRISCOLL, McNEILL, LONGIETTI, COHEN, QUIGLEY, A. HARRIS, ORTITAY, MARSHALL, SIMMONS, SCHREIBER, GRELL, SAYLOR, STEPHENS, GROVE, MURT, WATSON, GABLER, KAUFER AND GIBBONS, APRIL 8, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 8, 2015

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," in public assistance,  
4 providing for the establishment of KEYS.

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

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

10 Section 405.1B. Establishment of KEYS.--(a) There is  
11 established in the department a program which shall be known as  
12 Keystone Education Yields Success (KEYS). KEYS shall be designed  
13 to enable and to assist individuals receiving TANF or SNAP  
14 benefits to enroll in and pursue a certificate or degree program  
15 within one of the Commonwealth's community colleges.

16 (b) A KEYS recipient shall be permitted to count vocational  
17 education, including class time, clinicals, labs and study time

1 as set by the community college, toward the recipient's core  
2 TANF work requirement.

3 (c) In accordance with KEYS and notwithstanding section  
4 405.1, the following requirements shall apply:

5 (1) A recipient shall be enrolled in a degree or  
6 certificate program that will assist the recipient in  
7 securing a job that pays a family-sustaining wage.

8 (2) A KEYS recipient may be granted a six-month  
9 extension to complete the certificate or degree program,  
10 provided:

11 (i) the recipient is enrolled in a program that will  
12 lead to a high-priority occupation, as defined in section  
13 1301 of the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114),  
14 known as the Workforce Development Act or a program the  
15 community college has certified meets the same criteria  
16 as a high-priority occupation;

17 (ii) The recipient has maintained a 2.0 grade point  
18 average; and

19 (iii) the recipient has made satisfactory progress  
20 toward completing the program, including, but not limited  
21 to, completing all required developmental course work and  
22 successfully completing an average of eight credits per  
23 semester.

24 (d) A person who, without good cause, fails or refuses to  
25 comply with the terms and conditions of the KEYS program shall  
26 be terminated from the program.

27 (e) The department shall promulgate regulations to implement  
28 this section.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.