

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

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 15, 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 OR <--
16 UNIVERSITY WITHIN THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER

1 EDUCATION.

2 (b) A KEYS recipient shall be permitted to count vocational
3 education, including class time, clinicals, labs and study time
4 as set by the community college, toward the recipient's core
5 TANF work requirement for twenty-four months. ◀

6 (c) In accordance with KEYS and notwithstanding section
7 405.1, the following requirements shall apply:

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

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

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

20 (ii) The recipient has maintained a 2.0 grade point
21 average; and

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

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

30 (e) The department shall promulgate regulations to implement

1 this section.

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