

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1054 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, BAKER, V. BROWN, CAUSER, COHEN, D. COSTA, DRISCOLL, KAUFFMAN, McCARTER, McNEILL, ROZZI, SCHWEYER, SONNEY AND WATSON, APRIL 27, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 27, 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 payments for burial expenses; and abrogating 55
5 Pa. Code § 283.21.

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

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

11 (n) Burial Services Allowance

12 Section 494. Payments for Burial Services.--(a) The
13 department shall pay a burial or cremation allowance in the
14 amount of nine hundred dollars (\$900) for the following
15 individuals:

16 (1) Those who received Supplemental Security Income.

17 (2) Those receiving cash benefits from the department prior
18 to death.

19 (3) Those found eligible for cash assistance prior to death.

1 (4) Residents of nursing homes who received Supplemental
2 Security Income or nursing home care payments prior to and
3 continuously since January 1, 1973.

4 (b) This amount may be supplemented by the decedent's estate
5 or another party in an amount not to exceed nine hundred dollars
6 (\$900), in accordance with the eligibility requirements of 55
7 Pa. Code § 283.3 (relating to requirements for payment).
8 Individuals who die but have never sought assistance shall be
9 reviewed for eligibility to qualify for a grant allowance. If
10 eligible, an allowance shall be paid by the department.

11 (c) Separate payments totaling an amount not to exceed the
12 amounts authorized in subsections (a) and (b) may be made for
13 funeral, cemetery and crematorium expenses.

14 (d) The amounts specified in subsections (a) and (b) shall
15 increase by fifty dollars (\$50) each year for five consecutive
16 years after the effective date of this section.

17 Section 2. The provisions of 55 Pa. Code § 283.21 are
18 abrogated. All other provisions of 55 Pa. Code are abrogated
19 insofar as they are inconsistent with this act.

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.