

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 877 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY TOOHIL, D. COSTA, GABLER, GROVE, HARKINS, PHILLIPS-HILL, JAMES, KAUFER, READSHAW, ROZZI, TOPPER, ZIMMERMAN, KNOWLES AND MICCARELLI, MARCH 16, 2017

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 7, 2017

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 fiscal provisions
4 relating to public assistance, providing for distribution of
5 SNAP benefits.

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

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

11 ~~Section 476. Distribution of SNAP Benefits. Within six~~ <--

12 ~~SECTION 476. DISTRIBUTION OF SNAP BENEFITS.--THE FOLLOWING~~ <--

13 SHALL APPLY:

14 (1) WITHIN SIX months of the effective date of this section,
15 the department shall develop and implement guidelines that
16 require each county assistance office to distribute benefits
17 under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) on a
18 monthly basis using a uniform twenty-five-day distribution

1 schedule.

2 (2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY IMPLEMENT A TIERED DISTRIBUTION <--
3 SCHEDULE IN ORDER TO DETER ANY HARDSHIPS AS A RESULT OF THE
4 CHANGE IN THE DISTRIBUTION DATE UNDER THIS SECTION FOR AN
5 INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING THE BENEFITS.

6 (3) THE GUIDELINES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL UTILIZE A METHOD
7 WHICH IS UNIFORM THROUGHOUT THIS COMMONWEALTH SO THAT THE
8 DISTRIBUTION DATE FOR BENEFITS DOES NOT CHANGE IF AN INDIVIDUAL
9 RECEIVING BENEFITS MOVES TO A DIFFERENT COUNTY OF RESIDENCE IN
10 THIS COMMONWEALTH, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, USING THE
11 FIRST LETTER OF THE LAST NAME OF AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING
12 BENEFITS TO SET THE DATE OF DISTRIBUTION.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.