

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2069 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, MURT, READSHAW, THOMAS, CHARLTON, RAPP, YOUNGBLOOD, DRISCOLL, KINSEY, PASHINSKI, MILLARD, DeLUCA, WARD, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, P. COSTA, GILLEN, FRANKEL, V. BROWN, RAVENSTAHL, KORTZ, DONATUCCI, M. QUINN, NEILSON, STURLA, HARKINS, NELSON, ENGLISH, C. QUINN, GREINER, ROTHMAN, KAUFER, ROZZI, A. DAVIS, MARSHALL, ZIMMERMAN, GALLOWAY, WHEELAND, ORTITAY, QUIGLEY, D. COSTA, DEASY, BURNS AND MATZIE, FEBRUARY 12, 2018

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 18, 2018

AN ACT

1 ~~Amending the act of December 12, 1994 (P.L.1023, No.139),~~ <--
2 ~~entitled "An act establishing the Statewide Independent~~
3 ~~Living Council; providing for the powers and duties of the~~
4 ~~council; providing for a State plan for the provision of~~
5 ~~services to people with disabilities; providing for grants~~
6 ~~and funding for establishment of centers for independent~~
7 ~~living; and requiring centers for independent living to~~
8 ~~maintain certain standards and give certain assurances in~~
9 ~~order to qualify for assistance," further providing for~~
10 ~~definitions and for grants and funding.~~

11 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT <--
12 OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY FOR A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO FACILITATE
13 COMMUNICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 ~~Section 1. Section 3 of the act of December 12, 1994~~ <--
17 ~~(P.L.1023, No.139), known as the Independent Living Services~~
18 ~~Act, is amended by adding definitions to read:~~

19 ~~Section 3. Definitions.~~

20 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this act shall~~

1 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 * * *

4 "Individual who is deafblind." An individual:

5 (1) Who has a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in
6 the better eye with corrective lenses or a field defect such
7 that the peripheral diameter of visual field subtends an
8 angular distance no greater than 20 degrees or a progressive
9 visual loss having a prognosis leading to one or both
10 conditions.

11 (2) Who has a chronic hearing impairment so severe that
12 most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification
13 or a progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to
14 this condition.

15 (3) For whom the combination of impairments described
16 under paragraphs (1) and (2) causes extreme difficulty in
17 attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving
18 psychosocial adjustment or obtaining a vocation.

19 (4) Who despite the inability to be measured accurately
20 for hearing and vision loss due to cognitive or behavioral
21 constraints, or both, can be determined through functional
22 and performance assessment to have severe hearing and visual
23 disabilities that cause extreme difficulty in attaining
24 independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial
25 adjustment or obtaining vocation objectives.

26 * * *

27 "Support service provider." An individual trained by a
28 center for independent living to link an individual who is
29 deafblind to their environment by:

30 (1) Guiding an individual who is deafblind.

1 ~~(2) Facilitating communication between an individual who~~
2 ~~is deafblind and other individuals.~~

3 ~~(3) Providing information to an individual who is~~
4 ~~deafblind about their surroundings.~~

5 Section 2. Section 8 of the act is amended by adding a
6 subsection to read:

7 Section 8. Grants and funding.

8 ~~* * *~~

9 ~~(f) Existing centers for independent living.~~

10 ~~(1) The Department of Labor and Industry shall provide~~
11 ~~grants to:~~

12 ~~(i) Centers for independent living that provide~~
13 ~~services to individuals who are deafblind. Grants shall~~
14 ~~be used to provide assistance to an individual who is~~
15 ~~deafblind who is working toward establishing and~~
16 ~~maintaining independence.~~

17 ~~(ii) Centers for independent living that train~~
18 ~~support service providers. Grants shall be used to~~
19 ~~provide the necessary training to become a support~~
20 ~~service provider in this Commonwealth.~~

21 ~~(2) A grant under this subsection shall be in the amount~~
22 ~~of at least \$250,000. Beginning on the effective date of this~~
23 ~~subsection and annually thereafter, the minimum grant amount~~
24 ~~listed in this paragraph shall increase at the rate of~~
25 ~~inflation as outlined in the Consumer Price Index for All~~
26 ~~Urban Consumers in the Northeast Region for the most recent~~
27 ~~12 month period for which the figures have been reported by~~
28 ~~the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor~~
29 ~~Statistics. If the rate of inflation does not increase, the~~
30 ~~minimum grant amount shall remain the same as it was for the~~

1 ~~previous year.~~

2 ~~Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~

3 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.

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4 THE SUM OF \$250,000 IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL
5 FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
6 JULY 1, 2018, TO JUNE 30, 2019, FOR A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO
7 FACILITATE COMMUNICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND.

8 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

9 THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60 DAYS.