
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 219 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY LEACH AND FARNESE, JANUARY 26, 2017

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 26, 2017

AN ACT

1 Establishing a lending program in Commonwealth libraries for
2 electricity meters; creating a grant; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Electricity
8 Meter Lending Program Act.

9 Section 2. Purpose.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) There is an increasing need for the deployment of
12 innovative technologies that help residents of this
13 Commonwealth to shift or reduce their power consumption and
14 costs.

15 (2) It is the intent of this act to expand electricity
16 meter use and provide an expense-free and effortless way for
17 residents to discover the amount of electricity used by plug-
18 in appliances throughout the home.

19 (3) It is the intent of this act to encourage consumers

1 to become more informed energy users and make decisions that
2 will reduce energy consumption, as well as encourage
3 residents to consider newer high-efficiency appliances.

4 Section 3. Definitions.

5 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
6 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
7 context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 "Electricity meter." An electronic device that measures the
9 amount of electrical energy of a household appliance in kilowatt
10 hours.

11 "Grant." A grant issued under the program established under
12 this act.

13 "Library." A local public library that receives funding from
14 the Commonwealth.

15 "Office." The Office of Commonwealth Libraries within the
16 Department of Education of the Commonwealth.

17 "Program." The Electricity Meter Lending Program established
18 under this act.

19 Section 4. Electricity Meter Lending Program.

20 (a) Establishment.--There is established the Electricity
21 Meter Lending Program within the office. The purpose of the
22 program is to provide grants to libraries to provide electricity
23 meters to lend to the public.

24 (b) Eligibility.--A library that receives funding from the
25 Commonwealth is eligible to apply for a grant to purchase
26 electricity meters and lend the electricity meters to the
27 public. A municipality in which a library is located may also
28 apply for a grant for the library. The office, in its
29 discretion, shall determine the amount of a grant award to a
30 library. The office shall consider the population of the

1 library's service area and may establish additional criteria for
2 awarding the grants.

3 (c) Requirements.--A library receiving a grant must use the
4 money to purchase electricity meters and comply with the
5 provisions of section 5. The office shall monitor and verify
6 fulfillment of all of the requirements under this act.

7 Section 5. Electricity meter lending.

8 (a) Electricity meter lending.--A library receiving a grant
9 shall offer electricity meters for loan to the public.

10 (b) Program materials.--The office shall provide and a
11 library receiving a grant shall make available to the public all
12 of the following materials:

13 (1) Simple operating instructions for electricity
14 meters.

15 (2) Information on how to calculate the cost of using
16 any appliance based on the reading on the device.

17 (3) Energy conservation information.

18 (c) Training.--At least one employee of a library receiving
19 a grant shall be knowledgeable about the electricity meter.

20 (d) Procedures.--A library shall establish procedures for
21 the lending of electricity meters to the public.

22 Section 6. Administration.

23 (a) Enforcement.--The office shall enforce repayment of a
24 grant for a library that does not comply with the provisions of
25 this act, to include use of all lawful collection procedures and
26 the use of private collection agencies.

27 (b) Appeals.--The provisions of this act shall be subject to
28 2 Pa.C.S. Ch. 5 Subch. A (relating to practice and procedure of
29 Commonwealth agencies).

30 Section 7. Rules and regulations.

1 The office may promulgate rules and regulations to administer
2 and enforce this act.

3 Section 8. Appropriation.

4 The sum of \$40,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
5 is appropriated to the office for the fiscal year July 1, 2017,
6 to June 30, 2018, to carry out the provisions of this act.

7 Section 9. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect in 60 days.