

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 426 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, BARRAR, BERNSTINE, DeLUCA, DOWLING, GREINER, GROVE, HERSHEY, JAMES, KAUFER, KAUFFMAN, KEEFER, MILLARD, PICKETT, ROAE, RYAN, SAYLOR AND SIMMONS, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

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 prohibition of cash assistance extensions.

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 Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to  
9 read:

10 Section 432.27. Prohibition of Cash Assistance Extensions.--

11 (a) Except as provided under subsection (b), the department may  
12 not approve an extension of cash benefits under the Temporary  
13 Assistance for Needy Families program in excess of forty-eight  
14 cumulative months of assistance during a recipient's lifetime.

15 (b) The following shall be exempted from the prohibition  
16 under subsection (a):

17 (1) An individual who is diligently participating in a work  
18 activity and who has been unable to obtain employment due to

1 significant employment barriers and demonstrates a valid need  
2 for more time.

3 (2) A teen parent who is diligently participating in a work  
4 activity and who needs an exemption for twenty-four months of  
5 eligibility after receipt of a high school diploma or equivalent  
6 program.

7 (3) An individual who is a victim of domestic violence that  
8 delayed or affected the individual's work participation.

9 (4) A minor child of a work eligible family if the time  
10 limit termination of benefits under subsection (a) would result  
11 in the child being placed into emergency shelter or foster care.

12 (5) An individual who has a disability which precludes  
13 employment on a long-term basis.

14 (6) An individual who is a caretaker of a disabled family  
15 member living in the household.

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