THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1623 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY KENYATTA, KINSEY, BURGOS, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, McCLINTON, A. DAVIS, CALTAGIRONE, HOWARD, READSHAW, KIRKLAND, JOHNSON-HARRELL AND RABB, JUNE 12, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, JUNE 12, 2019

AN ACT

- Providing for the study of intergenerational poverty; 1 establishing the intergenerational poverty tracking system, 2 the Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and Economic Insecurity 3 and the Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security; and providing for a strategic plan, for 5 reports and for duties of the Department of Human Services and the Secretary of the Budget. 8 TABLE OF CONTENTS Chapter 1. Preliminary Provisions Section 101. Short title. 10 Section 102. Definitions. 11 12 Chapter 3. Intergenerational Poverty 13 Section 301. Intergenerational poverty tracking system. 14 Section 302. Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and Economic 15 Insecurity. 16 Section 303. Powers and duties. 17 Section 304. Report. 18 Chapter 5. Poverty Elimination and Economic Security Strategic
- 20 Section 501. The Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty Elimination

Planning

- 1 and Economic Security.
- 2 Section 502. Strategic plan to address poverty and economic
- 3 insecurity.
- 4 Section 503. Commission reports.
- 5 Section 504. Duties of the Secretary of the Budget.
- 6 Chapter 7. Miscellaneous Provisions
- 7 Section 701. (Reserved).
- 8 Section 702. (Reserved).
- 9 Section 703. Effective date.
- 10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- 11 hereby enacts as follows:
- 12 CHAPTER 1
- 13 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS
- 14 Section 101. Short title.
- This act shall be known and may be cited as the
- 16 Intergenerational Poverty Act.
- 17 Section 102. Definitions.
- 18 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
- 19 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
- 20 context clearly indicates otherwise:
- 21 "Antipoverty program." A program with the primary goal of
- 22 lifting individuals out of poverty and improving economic
- 23 opportunities for individuals that operates, in whole or in
- 24 part, utilizing Federal or State money.
- 25 "Asset poverty." The inability of an individual to access
- 26 wealth resources sufficient to provide for basic needs for a
- 27 period of three months.
- "Child." An individual who is under 18 years of age.
- 29 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty
- 30 Elimination and Economic Security established under section

- 1 501(a).
- 2 "Commonwealth poverty measure." A uniform method for
- 3 measuring poverty in this Commonwealth that considers indicators
- 4 and measures, other than traditional income-based measures of
- 5 poverty, that provide a detailed picture of low-income and
- 6 poverty populations and meaningfully account for other factors
- 7 contributing to poverty and may include:
- 8 (1) access to health care, housing, proper nutrition and
- 9 quality education;
- 10 (2) the number of individuals kept out of poverty by
- 11 government supports;
- 12 (3) the number of individuals who are impoverished due
- 13 to medical expenses, child-care expenses or work expenses;
- 14 (4) the rates of food insecurity;
- 15 (5) the number of individuals in asset poverty;
- 16 (6) the number of disconnected youth;
- 17 (7) the teen birth rate;
- 18 (8) the participation rate in Federal and State anti-
- 19 poverty programs for all eligible populations;
- 20 (9) the number of individuals who do not use a bank or
- 21 similar financial institution;
- 22 (10) regional differences in costs-of-living;
- 23 (11) income necessary to achieve economic security and a
- livable standard of living in different regions of this
- 25 Commonwealth:
- 26 (12) the impact of rising income inequality;
- 27 (13) the impact of the digital divide; and
- 28 (14) the impact of trauma on intergenerational poverty.
- "Cycle of poverty." The set of factors or events by which
- 30 the long-term poverty of an individual is likely to continue and

- 1 be experienced by each child of the individual when the child
- 2 becomes an adult unless there is outside intervention.
- 3 "Deep poverty." An economic condition where an individual or
- 4 family has a total annual income that is less than 50% of the
- 5 Federal poverty level for the individual or family as provided
- 6 in the annual report of the United States Census Bureau on
- 7 Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United
- 8 States.
- 9 "Department." The Department of Human Services of the
- 10 Commonwealth.
- "Deprivation." A lack of adequate nutrition, health care,
- 12 housing or other resources to provide for basic needs.
- "Digital divide." The gap between individuals, households,
- 14 businesses and geographic areas at different socioeconomic
- 15 levels related to access to information and communication
- 16 technologies, including the imbalance in physical access to
- 17 technology and the resources, education and skills needed to
- 18 effectively use computer technology and the Internet for a wide
- 19 variety of activities.
- "Disconnected youth." Individuals who are 16 years of age to
- 21 25 years of age who are unemployed and not enrolled in school.
- "Disparate impact." The historic and ongoing impacts of the
- 23 pattern and practice of discrimination in employment, education,
- 24 housing, banking and other aspects of life in the economy,
- 25 society or culture that have an adverse impact on minorities,
- 26 women or other protected groups, regardless of whether those
- 27 practices are motivated by discriminatory intent.
- 28 "Economic insecurity." The inability to cope with routine
- 29 adverse or costly life events and recover from the costly
- 30 consequences of those events and the lack of economic means to

- 1 maintain an adequate standard of living.
- 2 "Economic security." Having access to the economic means and
- 3 support necessary to effectively cope with adverse or costly
- 4 life events and recover from the consequences of such events
- 5 while maintaining an adequate standard of living.
- 6 "Intergenerational poverty." Poverty in which two or more
- 7 successive generations of a family continue in the cycle of
- 8 poverty and government dependence. The term shall not include
- 9 situational poverty.
- 10 "Outcome." A change in the economic status, economic
- 11 instability or economic security of an individual, household or
- 12 other population that is attributable to a planned intervention,
- 13 benefit, service or series of interventions, benefits and
- 14 services, regardless of whether the intervention, benefit or
- 15 service was intended to change the economic status, economic
- 16 stability or economic security.
- 17 "Poverty." An economic condition in which an individual or
- 18 family has a total annual income that is less than the Federal
- 19 poverty level for the individual or family, as provided in the
- 20 report of the United States Census Bureau on Income, Poverty and
- 21 Health Insurance Coverage in the United States.
- "Regional cost of living." A measure of the costs of
- 23 maintaining an adequate standard of living in differing
- 24 regional, geographic, urban or rural regions of this
- 25 Commonwealth.
- 26 "Situational poverty." Temporary poverty that meets all of
- 27 the following:
- 28 (1) Is generally traceable to a specific incident or
- time period within the lifetime of an individual.
- 30 (2) Is not continued to the next generation.

- 1 "Strategic plan." The plan provided for under section 502.
- 2 "System." The Intergenerational Poverty Tracking System
- 3 established under section 301(a).
- 4 "Two-generation approach." An approach to breaking the cycle
- 5 of intergenerational poverty by improving family economic
- 6 security through programs that create opportunities for and
- 7 address the needs of parents and children together.
- 8 "Workgroup." The Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and
- 9 Economic Insecurity established under section 302.
- 10 CHAPTER 3
- 11 INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY
- 12 Section 301. Intergenerational poverty tracking system.
- 13 (a) Establishment. -- The department shall establish and
- 14 maintain a data system to track intergenerational poverty.
- 15 (b) System requirements. -- The system shall have the ability
- 16 to do all of the following:
- 17 (1) Identify groups that have a high risk of
- 18 experiencing intergenerational poverty.
- 19 (2) Identify incidents, patterns and trends that explain
- or contribute to intergenerational poverty.
- 21 (3) Gather and track available local, State and national
- 22 data on all of the following:
- 23 (i) Official poverty rates.
- 24 (ii) Child poverty rates.
- 25 (iii) Years spent by an individual in childhood
- poverty.
- 27 (iv) Years spent by an individual in adult poverty.
- 28 (v) Related poverty information.
- 29 (c) Duties of department. -- The department shall do all of
- 30 the following:

- 1 (1) Use available data in the system, including public
- 2 assistance data, census data and other data made available to
- 3 the department, to track intergenerational poverty.
- 4 (2) Develop and implement methods to integrate, compare,
- 5 analyze and validate the data for the purposes described
- 6 under subsection (b).
- 7 (3) Protect the privacy of an individual living in
- 8 poverty by using and distributing data within the system in
- 9 compliance with Federal and State laws.
- 10 (4) Include in the report required under section 304, a
- 11 summary of the data, findings and potential additional uses
- of the system.
- 13 Section 302. Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and Economic
- 14 Insecurity.
- 15 (a) Establishment. -- The Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and
- 16 Economic Insecurity is established.
- 17 (b) Membership. -- The workgroup shall be comprised of the
- 18 following members:
- 19 (1) The Secretary of Human Services, or a designee who
- is a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the
- 21 department, who shall serve as chair.
- 22 (2) The Secretary of Labor and Industry, or a designee
- who is a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the
- 24 Department of Labor and Industry.
- 25 (3) The Secretary of Education, or a designee who is a
- deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department of
- 27 Education.
- 28 (4) The Secretary of Health, or a designee who is a
- deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department of
- 30 Health.

- 1 (5) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development,
- or a designee who is a deputy secretary or the equivalent
- 3 within the Department of Community and Economic Development.
- 4 (6) The Secretary of Aging, or a designee who shall be a
- 5 deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department of
- 6 Aging.
- 7 (7) The Secretary of Corrections, or a designee who
- 8 shall be a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the
- 9 Department of Corrections.
- 10 (8) The Secretary of Agriculture, or designee who shall
- 11 be a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department
- 12 of Agriculture.
- 13 (9) The Secretary of the Budget, or a designee.
- 14 (c) Meetings.--The workgroup shall meet no less than four
- 15 times a year.
- 16 Section 303. Powers and duties.
- 17 The workgroup shall have the following powers and duties:
- 18 (1) To collaborate in sharing and analyzing information
- and data for all of the following purposes:
- 20 (i) Understanding the root causes of poverty and
- 21 economic insecurity, including contributing social,
- 22 economic and cultural factors.
- 23 (ii) Understanding and addressing intergenerational
- 24 poverty by:
- 25 (A) Identifying children who are at risk of
- 26 continuing in the cycle of poverty absent
- intervention.
- 28 (B) Identifying and developing effective and
- efficient plans, programs and recommendations to help
- 30 at-risk children in this Commonwealth escape the

1 cycle of poverty.

(C) Implementing data-driven policies and programs, to the extent authorized by law, addressing poverty, public assistance, education, economic development, criminal justice and other areas as needed to measurably reduce the incidence of children in this Commonwealth who remain in poverty as they become adults.

- (D) Establishing and facilitating improved cooperation, data sharing and policy coordination among all persons, from Commonwealth agencies to case workers, in rescuing children from intergenerational poverty.
- (E) Studying and measuring the effect of intergenerational poverty on the ability of parents and children to achieve economic stability, including the effect on educational attainment, rates of incarceration, lifetime earnings, access to healthcare and access to housing.
- (F) Studying, evaluating and reporting on the status and effectiveness of policies, procedures and programs that provide services to children in this Commonwealth affected by intergenerational poverty.
- (G) Studying and evaluating the policies, procedures and programs implemented by other states and nongovernmental entities that address the needs of children affected by intergenerational poverty.
- (H) Identifying Commonwealth policies, procedures and programs or Federal requirements that are impeding efforts to help children in this

1 Commonwealth affected by intergenerational poverty 2 escape the cycle of poverty. 3 Developing and implementing programs and policies that use the two-generation approach. 4 5 Studying and measuring the effect that poverty and economic insecurity have on all of the following: 6 7 Worker productivity and economic output. (A) 8 (B) The health and welfare of children, including access to health care, housing, proper 9 10 nutrition and quality education. 11 Identifying Commonwealth programs, including 12 those related to economic development, job creation, job 13 training, the environment, disaster relief, hazard 14 mitigation, extreme weather and climate change, in need of reform to better target resources to low-income, 15 16 minority, rural, urban and other populations or geographic areas suffering from economic insecurity and 17 18 disparate rates of poverty. 19 Measuring the fiscal impact on the Commonwealth 20 from successfully transitioning individuals and families 21 from poverty to long-term economic stability. Fiscal 22 impact measurements may include all of the following: 23 (A) Reductions in long-term costs of social 24 safety net programs. 25 Reductions in long-term health care costs by 26 improving health of households formerly facing 27 economic insecurity or poverty. Increases in State and local revenues 28 29 attributable to new taxpaying individuals as a result of increased employment and disposable income. 30

1 (D) Reductions in enrollment and costs in need-2 based benefits and services programs. 3 (E) Improvements to the overall economy of this Commonwealth and reduced financial pressures on the 4 5 State and local governments. (2) To establish an ongoing system of data sharing, 6 7 policy coordination and communication among and within 8 Commonwealth agencies, local agencies and other organizations 9 related to programs aimed at improving economic security and 10 eliminating poverty. To identify knowledge gaps, research needs and 11 (3) 12 policy and program deficiencies associated with economic 13 insecurity and poverty. 14 To assist the commission in the development of the 15 strategic plan, including sharing data and information 16 identified under paragraphs (1) and (3) and analyses of that 17 data and information. 18 To implement the strategic plan adopted by the 19 commission, including all of the following: 20 Coordinating implementation of the strategic 21 plan. 22 Advising and assisting relevant agencies in the 23 implementation of the strategic plan. 24 Advising relevant agencies on specific 25 programmatic and policy matters related to the strategic 26 plan. 27 (iv) Providing relevant subject matter expertise to 28 each agency for purposes of implementing the strategic 29 plan. 30 Identifying and addressing issues that may 20190HB1623PN2123 - 11 -

- influence the future of the strategic plan.
- 2 Section 304. Report.
- 3 (a) Report. -- No later than September 1 of each year, the
- 4 workgroup shall issue a report that includes the following:
- 5 (1) A summary of actions taken and outcomes obtained by
- 6 the workgroup in fulfilling its duties under section 303.
- 7 (2) Progress made on reducing poverty and economic
- 8 insecurity in this Commonwealth, including policies or
- 9 procedures implemented to reduce or eliminate the cycle of
- 10 poverty and intergenerational poverty as a result of the data
- 11 collected by the workgroup.
- 12 (3) Relevant data assessing the scope and depth of
- intergenerational poverty in this Commonwealth.
- 14 (4) A 20-year history of poverty rates in this
- 15 Commonwealth with focus on any reduction or increase in the
- 16 rates during the previous 10 years and since the inception of
- the workgroup.
- 18 (5) Any recommendations for legislative or regulatory
- 19 action to adopt or repeal laws, policies or procedures to
- further the goal of eliminating poverty and economic
- insecurity in this Commonwealth.
- 22 (b) Distribution.--The workgroup shall distribute the report
- 23 created under subsection (a) as follows:
- 24 (1) To the Governor.
- 25 (2) To each member of the General Assembly.
- 26 (3) By prominently posting the report on each
- 27 Commonwealth department's and agency's publicly accessible
- 28 Internet website.
- 29 CHAPTER 5
- 30 POVERTY ELIMINATION AND

- 1 ECONOMIC SECURITY STRATEGIC PLANNING
- 2 Section 501. The Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty Elimination
- 3 and Economic Security.
- 4 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty
- 5 Elimination and Economic Security is established.
- 6 (b) Purpose. -- The purpose of the commission is to:
- 7 (1) Inform the public policy making process by:
- 8 (i) Improving policymakers' understanding of the
 9 root causes of poverty and economic insecurity, including
 10 contributing social, economic and cultural factors and
 11 the reasons that poverty and economic insecurity persist
- (ii) Expanding policymakers' understanding of

 poverty by distinguishing a standard that measures a

 level of freedom from deprivation from a standard that

 measures economic security provided by a living wage and
- 17 access to a livable standard of living.

in this Commonwealth.

- (iii) Educating policymakers on the impact poverty
 has on other measures of economic stability and economic
 outcomes, including educational attainment, rates of
 incarceration, lifetime earnings, access to health care,
 health care outcomes and access to housing.
 - (2) Support governmental efforts to ensure that residents of this Commonwealth have equal opportunity to achieve economic security.
- 26 (3) Reduce and ultimately eliminate poverty in this
 27 Commonwealth by making policy and other recommendations to
 28 the legislative, executive and judicial branches of this
 29 Commonwealth.
- 30 (c) Membership.--The commission shall consist of the

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- 1 following members:
- 2 (1) Four members of the General Assembly, one each
- appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, the
- 4 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
- 5 Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of
- 6 Representative.
- 7 (2) A member of the judiciary or a designee who shall be
- 8 appointed by the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme
- 9 Court.
- 10 (3) Twenty members of the public appointed under
- 11 subsection (d) representing stakeholders as follows:
- 12 (i) Two representatives, one of whom shall represent
- an organization that focuses on rural poverty and one of
- whom shall represent an organization that focuses on
- 15 urban and suburban poverty.
- 16 (ii) Two individuals who have experienced deep
- poverty.
- 18 (iii) One representative of an organization that
- advocates for health care access, affordability and
- 20 availability.
- 21 (iv) One representative of an organization that
- 22 advocated for individuals with mental illness.
- 23 (v) One representative of an organization that
- 24 advocates for children and youth.
- 25 (vi) One representative of an organization that
- advocates for equity and equality in education.
- 27 (vii) One representative of an organization that
- advocates for individual who are homeless.
- 29 (viii) One representative of a Statewide antihunger
- 30 organization.

1 (ix)One representative of an organization that 2 advocates for military veterans. 3 One representative of an organization that advocates for individuals with disabilities. 4 5 One representative of an organization that (xi) advocates for immigrants. 6 (xii) One representative of a Statewide faith-based 7 8 organization that provides direct social services in this 9 Commonwealth. 10 (xiii) One representative of an organization that advocates for economic security for women. 11 12 (xiv) One representative of an organization that 13 advocates for older adults. 14 One representative of a labor organization that 15 represents primarily low-wage and middle-wage earners. (xvi) One representative of school districts in this 16 17 Commonwealth. 18 (xvii) One representative of county governments in 19 this Commonwealth. 20 (xviii) One representative of municipal corporation 21 governments in this Commonwealth. 22 The members of the workgroup shall serve as (4)23 nonvoting ex officio members of the commission. 24 Appointment. -- The following shall apply: 25 The public members of the commission under 26 subsection (c)(3) shall be appointed as follows: 27 (i) Four shall be appointed by the Governor. 28 (ii) Four shall be appointed by the President pro 29 tempore of the Senate. (iii) Four shall be appointed by the Minority Leader 30

1 of the Senate.

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- 2 (iv) Four shall be appointed by the Speaker of the 3 House of Representatives.
- 4 (v) Four shall be appointed by the Minority Leader
 5 of the House of Representatives.
 - (2) It shall be determined by lot which appointing authority appoints which public members to the commission.
- 8 (3) The appointed members shall reflect the racial,
 9 gender and geographic diversity of this Commonwealth and
 10 shall include representation from regions of this
 11 Commonwealth experiencing economic insecurity and the highest
 12 rates of deep poverty.
- 13 (4) Public members of the commission shall be selected 14 for service on the commission within 45 days of the effective 15 date of this section.
- 16 (e) Qualifications.--Each member of the commission must have
 17 been a resident of this Commonwealth for a period of at least
 18 one year immediately preceding appointment and must continue
 19 residence in this Commonwealth during the member's tenure of
 20 service on the commission.
- 21 (f) Organizational meeting.--The organizational meeting of 22 the commission shall take place after all members are appointed 23 but no later than 60 days after the effective date of this 24 section.
- 25 (g) Compensation.--Members shall serve without compensation, 26 but public members may be reimbursed for reasonable and
- 27 necessary travel expenses connected to commission business.
- 28 (h) Commission chairperson.—The representatives of the 29 antipoverty organizations appointed under subsection (c)(3)(i)
- 30 shall serve as cochairs of the commission.

- 1 (i) Committees. -- The commission may establish subcommittees
- 2 to address specific issues or populations and may collaborate
- 3 with individuals with relevant expertise who are not members of
- 4 the commission to assist the subcommittee in carrying out its
- 5 duties.
- 6 (j) Meetings.--The full commission shall meet at least once
- 7 annually.
- 8 (k) Quorum. -- A majority plus one of the voting members shall
- 9 constitute a quorum.
- 10 (1) Voting. -- All actions of the commission and any
- 11 subcommittees established by the commission shall be approved by
- 12 majority vote of the commission or subcommittee as applicable.
- 13 (m) Open meetings.--The meetings of the commission shall be
- 14 conducted in accordance with the provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7
- 15 (relating to open meetings).
- 16 (n) Administrative support. -- The Department of Human
- 17 Services shall provide staff and administrative support to
- 18 assist the commission in carrying out it duties.
- 19 Section 502. Strategic plan to address poverty and economic
- 20 insecurity.
- 21 (a) Plan required. -- No later than November 30, 2020, the
- 22 commission shall develop and adopt a strategic plan to address
- 23 poverty and economic insecurity in this Commonwealth.
- 24 (b) Goals. -- The goals of the strategic plan shall be to:
- 25 (1) Ensure that Commonwealth programs and services
- targeting poverty and economic insecurity reflect the goal of
- 27 helping individuals and families rise above poverty and
- achieve long-term economic stability rather than simply
- 29 providing relief from deprivation.
- 30 (2) Eliminate disparate rates of poverty, deep poverty,

- 1 child poverty and intergenerational poverty based on race,
- 2 ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation or identity,
- 3 English language proficiency, ability and geographic location
- 4 in a rural, urban or suburban area.
- 5 (3) Reduce deep poverty in this Commonwealth by 50% by
- 6 2026.
- 7 (4) Eliminate child poverty in this Commonwealth by
- 8 2031.
- 9 (5) Eliminate all poverty in this Commonwealth by 2036.
- 10 (c) Plan development.--In developing the strategic plan, the
- 11 commission shall:
- 12 (1) Collaborate with the workgroup, including sharing
- data and information identified under section 303(a)(1) and
- 14 (3) and analyses of that data and information.
- 15 (2) Review each program and service provided by the
- 16 Commonwealth that targets poverty and economic insecurity for
- 17 purposes of:
- 18 (i) determining which programs and services are the
- most effective and of the highest importance in reducing
- 20 poverty and economic insecurity in this Commonwealth; and
- 21 (ii) providing an analysis of unmet needs, if any,
- among individuals, children and families in deep poverty
- and intergenerational poverty for each program and
- 24 service identified under subparagraph (i).
- 25 (3) Study the feasibility of using public/private
- 26 partnerships and social impact bonds, to improve innovation
- and cost-effectiveness in the development of programs and
- delivery of services that advance the goals of the strategic
- 29 plan.
- 30 (4) Hold at least six public hearings in different

- 1 geographic regions of this Commonwealth, including areas that
- 2 have disparate rates of poverty and that have historically
- 3 experienced economic insecurity, to collect information, take
- 4 testimony and solicit input and feedback from interested
- 5 parties, including members of the public who have personal
- 6 experiences with Commonwealth programs and services targeting
- 7 economic insecurity, poverty, deep poverty, child poverty and
- 8 intergenerational poverty and make the information publicly
- 9 available.
- 10 (5) To request and receive from a Commonwealth agency or
- 11 local government agency information relating to poverty in
- this Commonwealth, including all of the following:
- (i) Reports.
- 14 (ii) Audits.
- 15 (iii) Data.
- 16 (iv) Projections.
- 17 (v) Statistics.
- 18 (d) Subject areas. -- The strategic plan shall address all of
- 19 the following:
- 20 (1) Access to safe and affordable housing.
- 21 (2) Access to adequate food and nutrition.
- 22 (3) Access to affordable and quality health care.
- 23 (4) Equal access to quality education and training.
- 24 (5) Equal access to affordable, quality post-secondary
- education options.
- 26 (6) Dependable and affordable transportation.
- 27 (7) Access to quality and affordable child care.
- 28 (8) Opportunities to engage in meaningful and
- 29 sustainable work that pays a living wage and barriers to
- 30 those opportunities experienced by low-income individuals in

- 1 poverty.
- 2 (9) Equal access to justice through a fair system of
- 3 criminal justice that does not, in effect, criminalize
- 4 poverty.
- 5 (10) Availability of adequate income supports.
- 6 (11) Retirement security.
- 7 (e) Plan content. -- The strategic plan shall, at a minimum,
- 8 contain policy and fiscal recommendations relating to all of the
- 9 following:
- 10 (1) Developing fact-based measures to evaluate the long-
- 11 term effectiveness of existing and proposed programs and
- services targeting poverty and economic insecurity.
- 13 (2) Increasing enrollment in programs and services
- 14 targeting poverty and economic insecurity by reducing the
- 15 complexity and difficulty of enrollment in order to maximize
- program effectiveness and increase positive outcomes.
- 17 (3) Increasing the reach of programs and services
- 18 targeting poverty and economic insecurity by ensuring that
- 19 Commonwealth agencies have adequate resources to maximize the
- 20 public awareness of the programs and services, especially in
- 21 historically disenfranchised communities.
- 22 (4) Reducing the negative impacts of asset limits for
- eligibility on the effectiveness of Commonwealth programs
- targeting poverty and economic insecurity by ensuring that
- 25 eligibility limits do not:
- 26 (i) create gaps in necessary service and benefit
- delivery or restrict access to benefits as individuals
- and families attempt to transition off assistance
- 29 programs; or
- 30 (ii) prevent beneficiaries from improving long-term

- outcomes and achieving long-term economic independence from the program.
 - (5) Improving the ability of community-based organizations to participate in the development and implementation of Commonwealth programs designed to address economic insecurity and poverty.
 - (6) Improving the ability of individuals living in poverty, low-income individuals and unemployed individuals to access critical job training and skills upgrade programs and find quality jobs that help children and families become economically secure and rise above poverty.
 - (7) Improving communication and collaboration between Commonwealth agencies and local governments on programs targeting poverty and economic insecurity.
 - (8) Creating efficiencies in the administration and coordination of programs and services targeting poverty and economic insecurity.
 - (9) Connecting low-income children, disconnected youth and families of those children and youth to education, job training and jobs in the communities in which those children and youth live.
 - (10) Ensuring that the Commonwealth's services and benefits programs, emergency programs, discretionary economic programs and other policies are sufficiently funded to enable the Commonwealth to mount effective responses to economic downturns and increases in economic insecurity and poverty rates.
- 28 (11) Creating one or more Commonwealth poverty measures.
- 29 (12) Developing and implementing programs and policies 30 that use the two-generation approach.

1 Using public/private partnerships and social impact 2 bonds to improve innovation and cost effectiveness in the 3 development of programs and delivery of services that advance the goals of the strategic plan. 4 5 Identifying best practices for collecting data relevant to all of the following: 6 7 (i) Reducing economic insecurity and poverty. 8 Reducing the racial, ethnic, age, gender, sexual orientation and sexual identity-based disparities 9 10 in the rates of economic insecurity and poverty. 11 Adequately measuring the effectiveness, (iii) 12 efficiency and impact of programs on the outcomes for 13 individuals, families and communities who receive 14 benefits and services. 15 (iv) Streamlining enrollment and eligibility for 16 programs. 17 Improving long-term outcomes for individuals who (∇) 18 are enrolled in service and benefit programs. 19 Reducing reliance on public programs. 20 (vii) Improving connections to work. 21 (viii) Improving economic security. 22 Improving retirement security. (ix) 23 (x)Improving the Commonwealth's understanding of 24 the impact of extreme weather and natural disasters on 25 economically vulnerable communities and improving those 26 communities' resilience to and recovery from extreme 27 weather and natural disasters. 28 (xi)Improving access to living-wage employment. 29 Improving access to employment-based benefits. (f) Other information. -- In addition to the plan content 30

- 1 required under subsection (e), the strategic plan shall contain
- 2 all of the following:
- 3 (1) A suggested timeline for the stages of
- 4 implementation of the recommendations in the plan.
- 5 (2) Short-term, intermediate-term and long-term
- 6 benchmarks to measure the Commonwealth's progress toward
- 7 meeting the goals of the strategic plan.
- 8 (3) A summary of the review and analysis conducted by
- 9 the commission under subsection (c)(1).
- 10 (q) Impact of recommendations. -- For each recommendation in
- 11 the plan, the commission shall identify in measurable terms the
- 12 actual or potential impact the recommendation will have on
- 13 poverty and economic insecurity in this Commonwealth.
- 14 Section 503. Commission reports.
- 15 (a) Interim report. -- No later than June 30, 2020, the
- 16 commission shall issue an interim report on the commission's
- 17 activities to the Governor and the General Assembly.
- 18 (b) Report on strategic plan. -- Upon the commission's
- 19 adoption of the strategic plan, but no later than November 30,
- 20 2021, the commission shall issue a report containing a summary
- 21 of the commission's activities and the contents of the strategic
- 22 plan. The commission shall submit the report to the Governor and
- 23 each member of the General Assembly.
- 24 (c) Annual reports. -- Beginning November 30, 2022, and each
- 25 year thereafter, the commission shall issue a report on the
- 26 status of the implementation of the commission's strategic plan.
- 27 The report may contain any other recommendations of the
- 28 commission to address poverty and economic insecurity in this
- 29 Commonwealth.
- 30 Section 504. Duties of the Secretary of the Budget.

- 1 The Secretary of the Budget shall include in the materials
- 2 submitted to the General Assembly outlining the Governor's
- 3 proposed annual budget a description of any budget proposals or
- 4 other activities, ongoing projects and plans of the executive
- 5 branch designed to meet the goals and objectives of the
- 6 strategic plan. The information shall include the following:
- 7 (1) An accounting of the savings to the Commonwealth
- 8 from any increased efficiencies in the delivery of services.
- 9 (2) Any savings realized from reducing the number of
- 10 individuals living in poverty and reducing the demand for
- 11 need-based services and benefits.
- 12 (3) A projection of any increase in revenue collections
- due to any increase in the number of individuals who become
- employed and pay taxes into the State Treasury.
- 15 (4) Any other information related to the proposed annual
- budget the Secretary of the Budget believes furthers the
- goals and objectives of the strategic plan.
- 18 CHAPTER 7
- 19 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
- 20 Section 701. (Reserved).
- 21 Section 702. (Reserved).
- 22 Section 703. Effective date.
- This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.