

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2452 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, SNYDER, HOHENSTEIN, YOUNGBLOOD, MURT, ULLMAN, KOSIEROWSKI, FREEMAN, CEPHAS, SANCHEZ, ISAACSON, HANBIDGE, SCHLOSSBERG, RAVENSTAHL, SHUSTERMAN, OTTEN, HILL-EVANS, CONKLIN, MULLINS, DALEY, WILLIAMS, MALAGARI, SCHWEYER, A. DAVIS, FRANKEL, CALTAGIRONE, ROZZI, GALLOWAY, DERMODY, DONATUCCI, LEE, MADDEN, ROEBUCK AND STURLA, APRIL 27, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, APRIL 27, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), entitled
 2 "An act relating to the finances of the State government;
 3 providing for cancer control, prevention and research, for
 4 ambulatory surgical center data collection, for the Joint
 5 Underwriting Association, for entertainment business
 6 financial management firms, for private dam financial
 7 assurance and for reinstatement of item vetoes; providing for
 8 the settlement, assessment, collection, and lien of taxes,
 9 bonus, and all other accounts due the Commonwealth, the
 10 collection and recovery of fees and other money or property
 11 due or belonging to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
 12 including escheated property and the proceeds of its sale,
 13 the custody and disbursement or other disposition of funds
 14 and securities belonging to or in the possession of the
 15 Commonwealth, and the settlement of claims against the
 16 Commonwealth, the resettlement of accounts and appeals to the
 17 courts, refunds of moneys erroneously paid to the
 18 Commonwealth, auditing the accounts of the Commonwealth and
 19 all agencies thereof, of all public officers collecting
 20 moneys payable to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
 21 and all receipts of appropriations from the Commonwealth,
 22 authorizing the Commonwealth to issue tax anticipation notes
 23 to defray current expenses, implementing the provisions of
 24 section 7(a) of Article VIII of the Constitution of
 25 Pennsylvania authorizing and restricting the incurring of
 26 certain debt and imposing penalties; affecting every
 27 department, board, commission, and officer of the State
 28 government, every political subdivision of the State, and
 29 certain officers of such subdivisions, every person,
 30 association, and corporation required to pay, assess, or

1 collect taxes, or to make returns or reports under the laws
2 imposing taxes for State purposes, or to pay license fees or
3 other moneys to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
4 every State depository and every debtor or creditor of the
5 Commonwealth," providing for small business grant program,
6 imposing duties on the Department of Community and Economic
7 Development; and making an appropriation.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known
11 as The Fiscal Code, is amended by adding an article to read:

12 ARTICLE I-B

13 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

14 Section 101-B. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this article
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
19 Development of the Commonwealth.

20 "Small business." An employer within this Commonwealth:

21 (1) whose gross annual receipts for the prior fiscal
22 year did not exceed \$3,000,000; and

23 (2) that employs no more than 30 full-time employees.

24 Section 102-B. Grants and funding.

25 (a) Purpose.--The department shall provide grants in
26 accordance with this article to small businesses that are
27 adversely affected financially due to the coronavirus pandemic
28 and the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the
29 Governor on March 6, 2020, published in 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21,
30 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

31 (b) Amount.--Subject to the availability of State money, a
32 grant to a small business under this section shall not exceed
33 \$15,000.

1 Section 103-B. Application form.

2 (a) Development of forms.--The department shall develop a
3 grant application form for small businesses to apply for a grant
4 under this article.

5 (b) Contents of form.--At a minimum, the grant application
6 form shall contain the following information:

7 (1) The name, address and contact information of the
8 small business.

9 (2) The amount of grant money requested.

10 (3) The proposed use for the grant money requested.

11 (4) The financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic and
12 the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor
13 on March 6, 2020, published in 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21,
14 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency, on
15 the small business.

16 (5) Any other information that the department deems
17 necessary and appropriate.

18 Section 104-B. Public notice.

19 The department shall provide information regarding the
20 availability and award of grant money on the department's
21 publicly accessible Internet website.

22 Section 105-B. Award of grants.

23 (a) Criteria.--After review of the information specified
24 under section 103-B and within 20 days of the submission of the
25 grant application, the department shall determine whether to
26 award grant money to the small business and, if so, the amount
27 of the grant money awarded.

28 (b) Considerations.--In awarding grant money to a small
29 business, the department:

30 (1) Shall consider the geographic and demographic

1 diversity of the small businesses applying for the grant
2 money.

3 (2) Shall consider how the small business and other
4 persons would be served through the award of the grant to the
5 small business.

6 (3) May require documentation of gross annual receipts
7 and employee information for the small business.

8 (c) Notice.--

9 (1) The department shall provide written notice to the
10 small business of the award or denial of the grant money.

11 (2) Notice of the award of grant money shall include the
12 amount of the grant money awarded and any conditions or
13 restrictions on the use of the grant money.

14 (3) Notice of the denial of all or part of the grant
15 money requested shall include the reasons for the full or
16 partial denial.

17 Section 106-B. Reports.

18 (a) Preparation.--By September 30, 2020, or 60 days after
19 the expiration of this article, whichever occurs later, the
20 department shall prepare a report that lists each small business
21 that received grant money under this article and a summary of
22 the information specified under section 103-B(b).

23 (b) Publication.--The report under this section shall be
24 posted on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

25 Section 107-B. Guidelines.

26 The department may promulgate guidelines for the
27 implementation and administration of this article.

28 Section 108-B. Appropriation.

29 The sum of \$50,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the
30 department to carry out the provisions of this article.

1 Section 109-B. Expiration.

2 This article shall expire on September 30, 2020, or 30 days
3 after the termination of the declaration of disaster emergency
4 under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c) (relating to general authority of
5 Governor), whichever occurs later.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.