

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL**No. 2452** Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, SNYDER, HOHENSTEIN, YOUNGBLOOD, MURT,
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DONATUCCI, LEE, MADDEN, ROEBUCK, STURLA, DELLOSO AND COMMITTA,
APRIL 27, 2020

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 19, 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

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

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

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

14 ARTICLE I-B

15 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

16 Section 101-B. Definitions.

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

20 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
21 Development of the Commonwealth.

22 "REGIONAL NETWORK." A DEPARTMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT <--
23 SERVICE PROVIDER, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INDUSTRIAL
24 DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS AND SMALL
25 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

26 "Small business." ~~An~~ A RETAIL OR PERSONAL SERVICE employer <--
27 within this Commonwealth:

28 (1) whose gross annual receipts for the prior fiscal
29 year did not exceed ~~\$3,000,000;~~ and \$1,500,000; OR <--

30 (2) that employs no more than ~~30~~ 10 full-time employees. <--

31 Section 102-B. Grants and funding.

32 (a) Purpose.--The department shall provide grants in
33 accordance with this article to REGIONAL NETWORKS FOR THE <--
34 PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING AND FUNDING A REGIONAL SMALL BUSINESS

1 GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO WHICH GRANTS WILL BE PROVIDED TO small
2 businesses that are adversely affected financially due to the
3 coronavirus pandemic and the proclamation of disaster emergency
4 issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published in 50 Pa.B.
5 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster
6 emergency.

7 (B) REGIONAL SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM.--REGIONAL <--
8 NETWORKS AWARDED A GRANT UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL OPERATE THEIR
9 REGIONAL SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH
10 GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION 107-B.

11 ~~(b) (C) Amount.--Subject to the availability of State money,~~ <--
12 a grant FROM A REGIONAL NETWORK to a small business under this <--
13 section shall not exceed \$15,000.
14 Section 103-B. Application form.

15 (a) Development of forms.--The department shall develop a
16 REGIONAL SMALL BUSINESS grant application form for small <--
17 businesses to apply TO REGIONAL NETWORKS for a grant under this <--
18 article.

19 (b) Contents of form.--At a minimum, the REGIONAL SMALL <--
20 BUSINESS grant application form shall contain the following
21 information:

22 (1) The name, address and contact information of the
23 small business.

24 (2) The amount of grant money requested.

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

26 (4) The financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic and
27 the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor
28 on March 6, 2020, published in 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21,
29 2020), and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency, on
30 the small business.

1 (5) Any other information that the department deems
2 necessary and appropriate.

3 Section 104-B. Public notice.

4 The department shall provide information regarding the
5 availability and award of grant money on the department's
6 publicly accessible Internet website.

7 Section 105-B. Award of grants.

8 (a) Criteria.--After review of the information specified
9 under section 103-B and within 20 days of the submission of the
10 grant application, the ~~department~~ REGIONAL NETWORK shall <--
11 determine whether to award grant money to the small business
12 and, if so, the amount of the grant money awarded.

13 (b) Considerations.--In awarding grant money to a small
14 business, the ~~department~~ REGIONAL NETWORK: <--

15 (1) Shall consider the geographic and demographic
16 diversity of the small businesses applying for the grant
17 money.

18 (2) Shall consider how the small business and other
19 persons would be served through the award of the grant to the
20 small business.

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

23 (c) Notice.--

24 (1) The ~~department~~ REGIONAL NETWORK shall provide <--
25 written notice to the small business of the award or denial
26 of the grant money.

27 (2) Notice of the award of grant money shall include the
28 amount of the grant money awarded and any conditions or
29 restrictions on the use of the grant money.

30 (3) Notice of the denial of all or part of the grant

1 money requested shall include the reasons for the full or
2 partial denial.

3 (4) THE REGIONAL NETWORK SHALL PROVIDE COPIES OF ALL <--
4 NOTICES TO THE DEPARTMENT WHEN THEY ARE PROVIDED TO THE SMALL
5 BUSINESSES AND SHALL PROVIDE OTHER DOCUMENTS, INFORMATION AND
6 DATA TO THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY UPON REQUEST.

7 Section 106-B. Reports.

8 (a) Preparation.--By September 30, 2020, or 60 days after
9 the expiration of this article, whichever occurs later, the
10 department shall prepare a report that lists each REGIONAL <--
11 NETWORK AND small business that received grant money under this
12 article and a summary of the information specified under section
13 103-B(b).

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

16 Section 107-B. Guidelines.

17 The department may promulgate guidelines for the
18 implementation and administration of this article.

19 Section 108-B. Appropriation.

20 The sum of \$50,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the
21 department to carry out the provisions of ADMINISTER AND FUND <--
22 THE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED BY this article.

23 Section 109-B. Expiration.

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

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.