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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2552 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, HILL-EVANS, TOOHIL, MERSKI, ULLMAN,  
HOWARD, DRISCOLL, YOUNGBLOOD AND POLINCHOCK, MAY 26, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MAY 26, 2020

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AN ACT

1 Providing for temporary services to aging-out individuals  
2 through county agencies; and imposing duties on county  
3 agencies and the Department of Human Services.

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 Pandemic  
8 Assistance for Transition-age Foster Youth Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Aging-out individual." An individual who:

14 (1) Was adjudicated a dependent child prior to March 1,  
15 2020, and attained 18 years of age.

16 (2) Was authorized by a court prior to March 1, 2020, to  
17 remain a dependent child after attaining 18 years of age.

18 (3) Either:

1 (i) as of the effective date of this section, is no  
2 longer a dependent child as a result of having attained  
3 21 years of age; or

4 (ii) on or after the effective date of this section,  
5 attains 21 years of age and no longer meets the  
6 definition of a dependent child under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63  
7 (relating to juvenile matters).

8 "County agency." As defined in 23 Pa.C.S. § 6303 (relating  
9 to definitions).

10 "Department." The Department of Human Services of the  
11 Commonwealth.

12 Section 3. Scope of temporary services.

13 (a) Right to make election.--An aging-out individual may  
14 elect to receive housing, case management and other support  
15 services through a county agency.

16 (b) Duties of county agency.--

17 (1) The county agency shall provide written and verbal  
18 notice to aging-out individuals of the temporary services  
19 available under this act in a manner that is readily  
20 understandable and youth-friendly. The county agency shall  
21 document in each case file when and how notice was given and  
22 whether services were accepted.

23 (2) If an aging-out individual elects to receive  
24 services under subsection (a), the county agency shall  
25 provide all appropriate support services as if the aging-out  
26 individual remained as a dependent child under the  
27 jurisdiction of the court.

28 (3) The county agency shall develop a transition plan  
29 with an eligible aging-out individual prior to the  
30 termination of temporary services.

1           (4) On the effective date of this section and on a  
2 monthly basis thereafter, the county agency shall provide the  
3 department with a list of individuals who are eligible for  
4 temporary services under this act. The list shall specify  
5 which individuals continue to receive services, which  
6 individuals declined to receive services and whether a  
7 finalized transition plan is or was in place for each  
8 individual listed.

9           (c) Duties of department.--

10           (1) The department shall, from funds appropriated or  
11 otherwise made available to the department for the purpose,  
12 award grants to county agencies for complying with the duty  
13 under subsection (b).

14           (2) The department shall publicize, through its publicly  
15 accessible Internet website and other communication outlets,  
16 the services available under this act.

17           (3) The department shall share the information provided  
18 by the county agency under subsection (b)(4) with the Office  
19 of the Child Advocate.

20 Section 4. Funding.

21           (a) Duty of department.--Within seven days of the effective  
22 date of this section, the department, through the Office of  
23 Budget, shall submit a budget request to the Appropriations  
24 Committee of the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the  
25 House of Representatives that provides an estimate of the amount  
26 of money needed to satisfy the requirements of this act and the  
27 source of funding, including any available funding from the  
28 Federal Government, for the payment of the amount.

29           (b) Effect of grant award.--Notwithstanding any other  
30 provision of law to the contrary, the amount of a grant received

1 by a county agency under this act shall not affect the  
2 eligibility of, or amount awarded to, the county agency under  
3 any need-based grant and budget process.

4 Section 5. Expiration.

5 This act shall expire December 31, 2020.

6 Section 6. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect immediately.