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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2615 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, KAUFER, KULIK, ROTHMAN, HILL-EVANS,  
MILLARD, STAATS, OWLETT, POLINCHOCK, MURT, BARRAR, DRISCOLL,  
MCNEILL, PYLE, CIRESI, KAUFFMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, READSHAW,  
DAVANZO AND DUNBAR, JUNE 23, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUNE 23, 2020

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AN ACT

1 Providing for community assistance grants for restaurants;  
2 establishing the Community Cornerstone Grant Program;  
3 providing for fines; and making an appropriation.

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 Community  
8 Cornerstone Assistance 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 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic  
14 Development of the Commonwealth.

15 "Grant." A grant awarded under the Community Cornerstone  
16 Grant Program established under this act.

17 "NAICS." A classification within the North American Industry

1 Classification System developed for use by Federal statistical  
2 agencies for the collection, analysis and publication of  
3 statistical data related to the United States economy.

4 "Program." The Community Cornerstone Grant Program  
5 established under section 3.

6 "Restaurant." A place within this Commonwealth that receives  
7 a NAICS designation of 72241 or 72251 from the United States  
8 Census Bureau and where food or drink is served to or provided  
9 for the public, with or without charge. The term does not  
10 include dining cars operated by a railroad company in interstate  
11 commerce or a bed and breakfast homestead or inn.

12 Section 3. Community Cornerstone Grant Program.

13 (a) Establishment.--The Community Cornerstone Grant Program  
14 is established under the department in this Commonwealth for the  
15 purposes of providing financial assistance to Pennsylvania  
16 restaurants adversely impacted by the novel coronavirus  
17 identified in the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by  
18 the Governor on March 6, 2020.

19 (b) Eligibility.--To be considered eligible for a grant, a  
20 restaurant must meet all of the following:

21 (1) Operate no more than 10 restaurant locations under  
22 an identical name within this Commonwealth.

23 (2) Employ no more than 75 full-time equivalent  
24 employees per restaurant location.

25 (3) Demonstrate one of the following:

26 (i) A loss of revenue of 50% or more for the period  
27 beginning after March 31, 2020, and ending before June 1,  
28 2020, in comparison to the period beginning after March  
29 31, 2019, and ending before June 1, 2019.

30 (ii) If the restaurant was not in operation in

1 calendar year 2019, a loss of revenue of 50% or more for  
2 the period beginning after March 31, 2020, and ending  
3 before June 1, 2020, in comparison to the period  
4 beginning after January 31, 2020, and ending before April  
5 1, 2020.

6 (c) Application.--A restaurant may submit an application to  
7 the department on a form and in a manner prescribed by the  
8 department. In addition to the application, the department may  
9 require information as necessary to determine the eligibility of  
10 a restaurant for a grant under this act.

11 (d) Review and approval.--The following shall apply:

12 (1) Within 30 days of the effective date of this act,  
13 the department shall establish a time period of not less than  
14 30 days for restaurants to submit application for a grant.

15 (2) Upon closure of the time period established in  
16 paragraph (1), the department shall distribute all money made  
17 available to the department for the purpose making grants to  
18 restaurants considered eligible in an amount equal to the  
19 quotient resulting from dividing the total amount of money  
20 made available for grants under this act by the total number  
21 of eligible restaurants.

22 (3) The department shall not award a grant under this  
23 program that exceeds \$50,000 to an eligible restaurant.

24 (4) The following shall apply:

25 (i) Each eligible restaurant and the department  
26 shall enter into an agreement of the use of an awarded  
27 grant. The agreement shall state that the grant shall be  
28 used for costs incurred and payments made for any of the  
29 following:

30 (A) Payroll costs.

1 (B) Payment of interest on mortgage obligation,  
2 which shall not include any prepayment of or payment  
3 of principal on a covered mortgage obligation.

4 (C) Payment on a rent obligation.

5 (D) Payment for utilities.

6 (E) Other costs incurred by the restaurant for  
7 the acquisition of raw materials to sustain the  
8 operations of the restaurant.

9 (ii) A restaurant that receives a grant and fails to  
10 comply with subparagraph (i) shall repay the amount of  
11 the grant in addition to the department, in addition to a  
12 fee that amounts to 10% of the grant amount.

13 (e) Program guidelines.--The department shall develop and  
14 issue guidelines for the Community Cornerstone Grant Program.

15 Section 4. Funding.

16 The sum of \$250,000,000 shall be appropriated from money  
17 received by the Commonwealth under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief,  
18 and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136, 134 Stat. 281)  
19 for the purpose of making grants under this act.

20 Section 5. Prohibition on issuance.

21 No grants may be awarded under this section five years after  
22 the effective date of this section.

23 Section 6. Report.

24 Prior to December 31, 2020, and each December 31 in which an  
25 appropriation is made for the purposes of this act, the  
26 department shall submit a report to the chairperson and minority  
27 chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the  
28 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Community, Economic  
29 and Recreational Development Committee of the Senate, the  
30 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Appropriations

1 Committee of the House of Representatives and the chairperson  
2 and minority chairperson of the Commerce Committee of the House  
3 of Representatives. The report shall include, but not be limited  
4 to, the total amount of money granted and the name and county of  
5 residence of each restaurant that receives a grant.

6 Section 7. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect immediately.