
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1257 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY MILLARD, PICKETT, JAMES, MOUL, MENTZER, WEBSTER,
WHEELAND AND ROWE, APRIL 21, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 21, 2021

AN ACT

1 Establishing the COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Reimbursement
2 Program and the COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Reimbursement
3 Account to reimburse COVID-19 vaccine providers for the costs
4 incurred in administering the COVID-19 vaccine; and making an
5 appropriation.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the COVID-19
10 Vaccine Providers Reimbursement Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

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

15 "Account." The COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Reimbursement
16 Account established under section 4(a).

17 "COVID-19." The novel coronavirus identified in the
18 Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency issued on March 6,
19 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020).

1 "COVID-19 vaccine." A vaccine for COVID-19 that has received
2 an emergency use authorization from the United States Food and
3 Drug Administration.

4 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

5 "Program." The COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Reimbursement
6 Program established under section 3(a).

7 "Provider." A person or entity authorized to administer the
8 COVID-19 vaccine in this Commonwealth by the department.

9 Section 3. COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Reimbursement Program.

10 (a) Establishment.--The COVID-19 Vaccine Providers
11 Reimbursement Program is established within the department for
12 the purpose of reimbursing providers for the costs incurred in
13 administering the COVID-19 vaccine.

14 (b) Eligible costs.--The department may reimburse a provider
15 under the program to cover the costs associated with
16 administering the COVID-19 vaccine, including procuring storage
17 units and appropriate refrigeration equipment necessary to store
18 the COVID-19 vaccine.

19 Section 4. COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Reimbursement Account.

20 (a) Establishment.--The COVID-19 Vaccine Providers
21 Reimbursement Account is established as a restricted account in
22 the General Fund. Money received by the Commonwealth from the
23 Federal Government under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
24 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 4) shall be deposited into the
25 account. Money in the account shall not lapse or be transferred
26 to any other account or fund.

27 (b) Appropriation.--All of the money in the account is
28 appropriated to the department for the purpose of reimbursing
29 providers under the program.

30 Section 5. Administration of program.

1 (a) Administration.--The department shall administer the
2 program in accordance with this act.

3 (b) Application.--To apply for a reimbursement under the
4 program, a provider shall submit an application to the
5 department on a form and in a manner prescribed by the
6 department. A provider shall certify all of the following
7 information in an application under this subsection:

8 (1) The provider was deemed eligible to provide the
9 COVID-19 vaccine by the department during the period
10 beginning December 1, 2020, and ending March 18, 2021.

11 (2) The provider has received an allocation of the
12 COVID-19 vaccine from a vaccine manufacturer or the
13 department.

14 (3) The provider did not receive an allocation of the
15 COVID-19 vaccine after March 18, 2021, as a result of section
16 5 of the Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania
17 Department of Health Directing Vaccine Providers'
18 Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines, issued February 12,
19 2021.

20 (4) The provider is not an agent, employee, subsidiary
21 or affiliate of a health care facility on the department's
22 COVID-19 focused network provider list.

23 (5) The costs incurred in administering the COVID-19
24 vaccine.

25 (c) Review.--Beginning no later than 30 days after the
26 effective date of this section, the department shall review
27 applications under subsection (b). No later than 15 days after a
28 completed application under subsection (b) is received from a
29 provider, the provider shall review and approve or deny the
30 application.

1 (d) Award of reimbursements.--The department shall reimburse
2 providers under the program on a first-come, first-served basis
3 until the amount of available funds in the account has been
4 completely expended.

5 Section 6. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 60 days.