

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

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 5, 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 STORING the COVID-19 vaccine; and <--
5 making an 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 "CARES ACT." THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC <--
18 SECURITY ACT (PUBLIC LAW 116-136, 134 STAT. 281).

19 "COVID-19." The novel coronavirus identified in the

1 Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency issued on March 6,
2 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020).

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

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

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

9 "Provider." A person or entity authorized to administer the
10 COVID-19 vaccine in this Commonwealth ~~by the department.~~ <--

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

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

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

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

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

30 (b) Appropriation.--~~All of the money in the account is~~ THE <--

1 SUM OF \$250,000 IS appropriated FROM THE ACCOUNT to the <--
2 department for the purpose of reimbursing providers under the
3 program.

4 Section 5. Administration of program.

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

7 (b) Application.--To apply for a reimbursement under the
8 program, a provider shall submit an application to the
9 department on a form and in a manner prescribed by the
10 department. A provider shall certify AND PROVIDE SUPPORTING <--
11 DOCUMENTATION FOR all of the following information in an
12 application under this subsection:

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

16 (2) The provider has received an allocation of the
17 COVID-19 vaccine from a vaccine manufacturer or the
18 department.

19 (3) The provider did not receive an allocation of the
20 COVID-19 vaccine after March 18, 2021, as a result of section
21 5 of the Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania
22 Department of Health Directing Vaccine Providers'
23 Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines, issued February 12,
24 2021.

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

28 (5) The costs incurred in ~~administering~~ STORING the <--
29 COVID-19 vaccine.

30 (6) THE PROVIDER DID NOT RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR <--

1 COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION FROM THE PROVIDER RELIEF FUND
2 UNDER THE CARES ACT.

3 (c) Review.--Beginning no later than 30 days after the
4 effective date of this section, the department shall review
5 applications under subsection (b). No later than 15 days after a
6 completed application under subsection (b) is received from a
7 provider, the ~~provider~~ DEPARTMENT shall review and approve or <--
8 deny the application.

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

13 Section 6. Effective date.

14 This act shall take effect in 60 days.