

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1294 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY MASSER, MATZIE, HILL-EVANS, RIGBY, JAMES, MERSKI, SCHLOSSBERG, WHEELAND AND SAINATO, APRIL 27, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, APRIL 27, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 10, 1987 (P.L.246, No.47), entitled "An
 2 act empowering the Department of Community and Economic
 3 Development to assist municipalities in avoiding financial
 4 distress; declare certain municipalities as financially
 5 distressed; providing for the restructuring of debt of
 6 financially distressed municipalities; limiting the ability
 7 of financially distressed municipalities to obtain government
 8 funding; authorizing municipalities to participate in Federal
 9 debt adjustment actions and bankruptcy actions under certain
 10 circumstances; authorizing certain taxes; and providing for
 11 the disincorporation of municipalities and the establishment
 12 of unincorporated service districts," in municipal financial
 13 distress, providing for municipal assistance.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. Chapter 2 of the act of July 10, 1987 (P.L.246,
 17 No.47), known as the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, is
 18 amended by adding a subchapter to read:

19 SUBCHAPTER F

20 MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

21 Section 291. Municipal redevelopment assistance.

22 The coordinator appointed for a municipality shall, as part
 23 of the plan under Subchapter C, provide for the hiring of an

1 additional code enforcement officer for the municipality and for
2 the hiring of either a Main Street Program coordinator or Elm
3 Street Program coordinator. The positions shall be funded by the
4 department in accordance with section 295.

5 Section 292. Code enforcement officer.

6 The code enforcement officer hired under this subchapter
7 shall assist the municipality in processing building and zoning
8 applications and give priority to approving applications that
9 will curb blight and promote economic development.

10 Section 293. Prohibition.

11 A code enforcement officer hired under this subchapter must
12 be an individual, not a third-party agency.

13 Section 294. Main Street Program and Elm Street Program.

14 The coordinator shall hire the Main Street Program
15 coordinator or Elm Street Program coordinator according to the
16 guidelines for the Keystone Communities Program to assist the
17 coordinator and the municipality in revitalization efforts
18 within the community.

19 Section 295. Funding.

20 The department shall reimburse the municipality for which a
21 coordinator has been appointed for the salaries of the
22 additional code enforcement officer and the Main Street Program
23 coordinator or Elm Street Program Coordinator at the following
24 rates for eight years:

25 (1) Years one and two - 100%

26 (2) Years three through five - 80%

27 (3) Years six through eight - 50%

28 Section 296. Notice of funding.

29 Upon the initial appropriation of sufficient funds to carry
30 out the provisions of this act or a determination by the

1 department that sufficient funds are available from within the
2 Municipalities Financial Recovery Revolving Aid Fund or another
3 existing source to carry out the provisions of this subchapter,
4 the department shall transmit notice to the Legislative
5 Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.
6 Section 297. Municipalities exiting distressed level.

7 If the secretary terminates the distressed status of a
8 municipality before eight years have elapsed since the adoption
9 of the exit plan, the municipality shall continue to receive
10 funding in accordance with section 295, until the eight years
11 have expired.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect as follows:

13 (1) The addition of section 296 of the act shall take
14 effect immediately.

15 (2) This section shall take effect immediately.

16 (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect upon
17 publication of the notice under section 296 of the act.