

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1678 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY A. DAVIS, SANCHEZ AND A. BROWN, JUNE 23, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUNE 23, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to  
3 consumer credit, establishing the Grieving Parent Temporary  
4 Debt Relief Grant Program and the Grieving Parent Temporary  
5 Debt Relief Fund; and making an appropriation.

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

8 Section 1. Title 12 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
9 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

10 § 6105. Grieving Parent Temporary Debt Relief Grant Program.

11 (a) Establishment.--The Grieving Parent Temporary Debt  
12 Relief Grant Program is established in the department. The  
13 department shall develop and implement grant program guidelines  
14 for the distribution of grants from the fund.

15 (b) Eligibility.--A debtor whose child died due to gun  
16 violence shall be eligible to receive a grant under the grant  
17 program.

18 (c) Notice.--The department shall transmit notice of the  
19 grant program availability to the Legislative Reference Bureau  
20 for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

1 (d) Permitted uses.--Grants shall be in the form of a  
2 payment to a debtor for housing payments, public utility  
3 payments, wireless communication payments or other payments  
4 approved by the department.

5 (e) Grant amount.--Grants shall not exceed \$10,000 per  
6 applicant.

7 (f) Fund establishment.--The Grieving Parent Temporary Debt  
8 Relief Fund is established as a special fund in the State  
9 Treasury. Money in the fund shall be appropriated to the  
10 department on a continuing basis for purposes of the grant  
11 program.

12 (g) Sources of revenue.--

13 (1) The sum of \$1,000,000 shall be appropriated from the  
14 General Fund to the fund for the purpose of making grants  
15 under this section.

16 (2) The fund may be supplemented by money received from  
17 the following sources:

18 (i) Federal money appropriated to the department.

19 (ii) State money appropriated to the department.

20 (iii) Gifts and other contributions from public and  
21 private sources.

22 (h) Report.--The department shall submit an annual report to  
23 the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31 of each  
24 year consisting of any supplemental money received under  
25 subsection (g) and all grants made under this section.

26 (i) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
27 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
28 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

29 "Child." A minor child of a biological parent, stepparent or  
30 adoptive parent or in the care of a legal guardian.

1 "Creditor." An individual or person to whom money is owed  
2 for the payment of a mortgage, rent or utility bill for gas,  
3 electric, water, sewer, oil, propane or other services.

4 "Debtor." A biological parent, stepparent, adoptive parent  
5 or legal guardian of a child that is liable to a creditor.

6 "Fund." The Grieving Parent Temporary Debt Relief Fund  
7 established under subsection (f).

8 "Grant program." The Grieving Parent Temporary Debt Relief  
9 Grant Program established under subsection (a).

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.