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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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INTRODUCED BY KENYATTA, GALLOWAY, HILL-EVANS, RABB, KINSEY,  
FIEDLER, SCHLOSSBERG, HOWARD, SHUSTERMAN, HOHENSTEIN,  
SANCHEZ, CIRESI, BRADFORD, SIMS, LEE, GAINNEY, MADDEN AND  
N. NELSON, OCTOBER 4, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, OCTOBER 4, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Providing for the study of intergenerational poverty;  
2 establishing the intergenerational poverty tracking system,  
3 the Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and Economic Insecurity  
4 and the Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty Elimination and  
5 Economic Security; and providing for a strategic plan, for  
6 reports and for duties of the Department of Human Services  
7 and the Secretary of the Budget.

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10 Section 703. Effective date.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 CHAPTER 1

14 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

15 Section 101. Short title.

16 This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
17 Intergenerational Poverty Act.

18 Section 102. Definitions.

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

22 "Antipoverty program." A program with the primary goal of  
23 lifting individuals out of poverty and improving economic  
24 opportunities for individuals that operates, in whole or in  
25 part, utilizing Federal or State money.

26 "Asset poverty." The inability of an individual to access  
27 wealth resources sufficient to provide for basic needs for a  
28 period of three months.

29 "Child." An individual who is under 18 years of age.

30 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty

1 Elimination and Economic Security established under section  
2 501(a).

3 "Commonwealth poverty measure." A uniform method for  
4 measuring poverty in this Commonwealth that considers indicators  
5 and measures, other than traditional income-based measures of  
6 poverty, that provide a detailed picture of low-income and  
7 poverty populations and meaningfully account for other factors  
8 contributing to poverty and may include the following:

9 (1) Access to health care, housing, proper nutrition and  
10 quality education.

11 (2) The number of individuals kept out of poverty by  
12 government supports.

13 (3) The number of individuals who are impoverished due  
14 to medical expenses, child-care expenses or work expenses.

15 (4) The rates of food insecurity.

16 (5) The number of individuals in asset poverty.

17 (6) The number of disconnected youth.

18 (7) The teen birth rate.

19 (8) The participation rate in Federal and State anti-  
20 poverty programs for all eligible populations.

21 (9) The number of individuals who do not use a bank or  
22 similar financial institution.

23 (10) Regional differences in costs-of-living.

24 (11) Income necessary to achieve economic security and a  
25 livable standard of living in different regions of this  
26 Commonwealth.

27 (12) The impact of rising income inequality.

28 (13) The impact of the digital divide.

29 (14) The impact of trauma on intergenerational poverty.

30 "Cycle of poverty." The set of factors or events by which

1 the long-term poverty of an individual is likely to continue and  
2 be experienced by each child of the individual when the child  
3 becomes an adult unless there is outside intervention.

4 "Deep poverty." An economic condition where an individual or  
5 family has a total annual income that is less than 50% of the  
6 Federal poverty level for the individual or family as provided  
7 in the annual report of the United States Census Bureau on  
8 Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United  
9 States.

10 "Department." The Department of Human Services of the  
11 Commonwealth.

12 "Deprivation." A lack of adequate nutrition, health care,  
13 housing or other resources to provide for basic needs.

14 "Digital divide." The gap between individuals, households,  
15 businesses and geographic areas at different socioeconomic  
16 levels related to access to information and communication  
17 technologies, including the imbalance in physical access to  
18 technology and the resources, education and skills needed to  
19 effectively use computer technology and the Internet for a wide  
20 variety of activities.

21 "Disconnected youth." Individuals who are 16 years of age to  
22 25 years of age who are unemployed and not enrolled in school.

23 "Disparate impact." The historic and ongoing impacts of the  
24 pattern and practice of discrimination in employment, education,  
25 housing, banking and other aspects of life in the economy,  
26 society or culture that have an adverse impact on minorities,  
27 women or other protected groups, regardless of whether those  
28 practices are motivated by discriminatory intent.

29 "Economic insecurity." The inability to cope with routine  
30 adverse or costly life events and recover from the costly

1 consequences of those events and the lack of economic means to  
2 maintain an adequate standard of living.

3 "Economic security." Having access to the economic means and  
4 support necessary to effectively cope with adverse or costly  
5 life events and recover from the consequences of such events  
6 while maintaining an adequate standard of living.

7 "Intergenerational poverty." Poverty in which two or more  
8 successive generations of a family continue in the cycle of  
9 poverty and government dependence. The term does not include  
10 situational poverty.

11 "Outcome." A change in the economic status, economic  
12 instability or economic security of an individual, household or  
13 other population that is attributable to a planned intervention,  
14 benefit, service or series of interventions, benefits and  
15 services, regardless of whether the intervention, benefit or  
16 service was intended to change the economic status, economic  
17 stability or economic security.

18 "Poverty." An economic condition in which an individual or  
19 family has a total annual income that is less than the Federal  
20 poverty level for the individual or family, as provided in the  
21 report of the United States Census Bureau on Income, Poverty and  
22 Health Insurance Coverage in the United States.

23 "Regional cost of living." A measure of the costs of  
24 maintaining an adequate standard of living in differing  
25 regional, geographic, urban or rural regions of this  
26 Commonwealth.

27 "Situational poverty." Temporary poverty that meets all of  
28 the following:

29 (1) Is generally traceable to a specific incident or  
30 time period within the lifetime of an individual.

1           (2) Is not continued to the next generation.

2       "Strategic plan." The plan provided for under section 502.

3       "System." The Intergenerational Poverty Tracking System

4 established under section 301(a).

5       "Two-generation approach." An approach to breaking the cycle

6 of intergenerational poverty by improving family economic

7 security through programs that create opportunities for and

8 address the needs of parents and children together.

9       "Workgroup." The Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and

10 Economic Insecurity established under section 302.

11   CHAPTER 3

12   INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY

13 Section 301. Intergenerational poverty tracking system.

14       (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish and

15 maintain a data system to track intergenerational poverty.

16       (b) System requirements.--The system shall have the ability

17 to do all of the following:

- 18           (1) Identify groups that have a high risk of
- 19           experiencing intergenerational poverty.
- 20           (2) Identify incidents, patterns and trends that explain
- 21           or contribute to intergenerational poverty.
- 22           (3) Gather and track available local, State and national
- 23           data on all of the following:
  - 24                   (i) Official poverty rates.
  - 25                   (ii) Child poverty rates.
  - 26                   (iii) Years spent by an individual in childhood
  - 27                   poverty.
  - 28                   (iv) Years spent by an individual in adult poverty.
  - 29                   (v) Related poverty information.

30       (c) Duties of department.--The department shall do all of

1 the following:

2 (1) Use available data in the system, including public  
3 assistance data, census data and other data made available to  
4 the department, to track intergenerational poverty.

5 (2) Develop and implement methods to integrate, compare,  
6 analyze and validate the data for the purposes described  
7 under subsection (b).

8 (3) Protect the privacy of an individual living in  
9 poverty by using and distributing data within the system in  
10 compliance with Federal and State laws.

11 (4) Include in the report required under section 304, a  
12 summary of the data, findings and potential additional uses  
13 of the system.

14 Section 302. Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and Economic  
15 Insecurity.

16 (a) Establishment.--The Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and  
17 Economic Insecurity is established.

18 (b) Membership.--The workgroup shall be comprised of the  
19 following members:

20 (1) The Secretary of Human Services, or a designee who  
21 is a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the  
22 department, who shall serve as chair.

23 (2) The Secretary of Labor and Industry, or a designee  
24 who is a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the  
25 Department of Labor and Industry.

26 (3) The Secretary of Education, or a designee who is a  
27 deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department of  
28 Education.

29 (4) The Secretary of Health, or a designee who is a  
30 deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department of

1 Health.

2 (5) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development,  
3 or a designee who is a deputy secretary or the equivalent  
4 within the Department of Community and Economic Development.

5 (6) The Secretary of Aging, or a designee who shall be a  
6 deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department of  
7 Aging.

8 (7) The Secretary of Corrections, or a designee who  
9 shall be a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the  
10 Department of Corrections.

11 (8) The Secretary of Agriculture, or designee who shall  
12 be a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department  
13 of Agriculture.

14 (9) The Secretary of the Budget, or a designee.

15 (c) Meetings.--The workgroup shall meet no less than four  
16 times a year.

17 Section 303. Powers and duties.

18 The workgroup shall have the following powers and duties:

19 (1) To collaborate in sharing and analyzing information  
20 and data for all of the following purposes:

21 (i) Understanding the root causes of poverty and  
22 economic insecurity, including contributing social,  
23 economic and cultural factors.

24 (ii) Understanding and addressing intergenerational  
25 poverty by:

26 (A) Identifying children who are at risk of  
27 continuing in the cycle of poverty absent  
28 intervention.

29 (B) Identifying and developing effective and  
30 efficient plans, programs and recommendations to help



1 at-risk children in this Commonwealth escape the  
2 cycle of poverty.

3 (C) Implementing data-driven policies and  
4 programs, to the extent authorized by law, addressing  
5 poverty, public assistance, education, economic  
6 development, criminal justice and other areas as  
7 needed to measurably reduce the incidence of children  
8 in this Commonwealth who remain in poverty as they  
9 become adults.

10 (D) Establishing and facilitating improved  
11 cooperation, data sharing and policy coordination  
12 among all persons, from Commonwealth agencies to case  
13 workers, in rescuing children from intergenerational  
14 poverty.

15 (E) Studying and measuring the effect of  
16 intergenerational poverty on the ability of parents  
17 and children to achieve economic stability, including  
18 the effect on educational attainment, rates of  
19 incarceration, lifetime earnings, access to  
20 healthcare and access to housing.

21 (F) Studying, evaluating and reporting on the  
22 status and effectiveness of policies, procedures and  
23 programs that provide services to children in this  
24 Commonwealth affected by intergenerational poverty.

25 (G) Studying and evaluating the policies,  
26 procedures and programs implemented by other states  
27 and nongovernmental entities that address the needs  
28 of children affected by intergenerational poverty.

29 (H) Identifying Commonwealth policies,  
30 procedures and programs or Federal requirements that

1 are impeding efforts to help children in this  
2 Commonwealth affected by intergenerational poverty  
3 escape the cycle of poverty.

4 (I) Developing and implementing programs and  
5 policies that use the two-generation approach.

6 (iii) Studying and measuring the effect that poverty  
7 and economic insecurity have on all of the following:

8 (A) Worker productivity and economic output.

9 (B) The health and welfare of children,  
10 including access to health care, housing, proper  
11 nutrition and quality education.

12 (iv) Identifying Commonwealth programs, including  
13 those related to economic development, job creation, job  
14 training, the environment, disaster relief, hazard  
15 mitigation, extreme weather and climate change, in need  
16 of reform to better target resources to low-income,  
17 minority, rural, urban and other populations or  
18 geographic areas suffering from economic insecurity and  
19 disparate rates of poverty.

20 (v) Measuring the fiscal impact on the Commonwealth  
21 from successfully transitioning individuals and families  
22 from poverty to long-term economic stability. Fiscal  
23 impact measurements may include all of the following:

24 (A) Reductions in long-term costs of social  
25 safety net programs.

26 (B) Reductions in long-term health care costs by  
27 improving health of households formerly facing  
28 economic insecurity or poverty.

29 (C) Increases in State and local revenues  
30 attributable to new taxpaying individuals as a result

1 of increased employment and disposable income.

2 (D) Reductions in enrollment and costs in need-  
3 based benefits and services programs.

4 (E) Improvements to the overall economy of this  
5 Commonwealth and reduced financial pressures on the  
6 State and local governments.

7 (2) To establish an ongoing system of data sharing,  
8 policy coordination and communication among and within  
9 Commonwealth agencies, local agencies and other organizations  
10 related to programs aimed at improving economic security and  
11 eliminating poverty.

12 (3) To identify knowledge gaps, research needs and  
13 policy and program deficiencies associated with economic  
14 insecurity and poverty.

15 (4) To assist the commission in the development of the  
16 strategic plan, including sharing data and information  
17 identified under paragraphs (1) and (3) and analyses of that  
18 data and information.

19 (5) To implement the strategic plan adopted by the  
20 commission, including all of the following:

21 (i) Coordinating implementation of the strategic  
22 plan.

23 (ii) Advising and assisting relevant agencies in the  
24 implementation of the strategic plan.

25 (iii) Advising relevant agencies on specific  
26 programmatic and policy matters related to the strategic  
27 plan.

28 (iv) Providing relevant subject matter expertise to  
29 each agency for purposes of implementing the strategic  
30 plan.

1 (v) Identifying and addressing issues that may  
2 influence the future of the strategic plan.

3 Section 304. Report.

4 (a) Report.--No later than September 1 of each year, the  
5 workgroup shall issue a report that includes the following:

6 (1) A summary of actions taken and outcomes obtained by  
7 the workgroup in fulfilling its duties under section 303.

8 (2) Progress made on reducing poverty and economic  
9 insecurity in this Commonwealth, including policies or  
10 procedures implemented to reduce or eliminate the cycle of  
11 poverty and intergenerational poverty as a result of the data  
12 collected by the workgroup.

13 (3) Relevant data assessing the scope and depth of  
14 intergenerational poverty in this Commonwealth.

15 (4) A 20-year history of poverty rates in this  
16 Commonwealth with focus on any reduction or increase in the  
17 rates during the previous 10 years and since the inception of  
18 the workgroup.

19 (5) Any recommendations for legislative or regulatory  
20 action to adopt or repeal laws, policies or procedures to  
21 further the goal of eliminating poverty and economic  
22 insecurity in this Commonwealth.

23 (b) Distribution.--The workgroup shall distribute the report  
24 created under subsection (a) as follows:

25 (1) To the Governor.

26 (2) To each member of the General Assembly.

27 (3) By prominently posting the report on each  
28 Commonwealth department's and agency's publicly accessible  
29 Internet website.

30 CHAPTER 5

1 POVERTY ELIMINATION AND

2 ECONOMIC SECURITY STRATEGIC PLANNING

3 Section 501. The Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty Elimination  
4 and Economic Security.

5 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty  
6 Elimination and Economic Security is established.

7 (b) Purposes.--The purposes of the commission are to:

8 (1) Inform the public policy making process by:

9 (i) Improving policymakers' understanding of the  
10 root causes of poverty and economic insecurity, including  
11 contributing social, economic and cultural factors and  
12 the reasons that poverty and economic insecurity persist  
13 in this Commonwealth.

14 (ii) Expanding policymakers' understanding of  
15 poverty by distinguishing a standard that measures a  
16 level of freedom from deprivation from a standard that  
17 measures economic security provided by a living wage and  
18 access to a livable standard of living.

19 (iii) Educating policymakers on the impact poverty  
20 has on other measures of economic stability and economic  
21 outcomes, including educational attainment, rates of  
22 incarceration, lifetime earnings, access to health care,  
23 health care outcomes and access to housing.

24 (2) Support governmental efforts to ensure that  
25 residents of this Commonwealth have equal opportunity to  
26 achieve economic security.

27 (3) Reduce and ultimately eliminate poverty in this  
28 Commonwealth by making policy and other recommendations to  
29 the legislative, executive and judicial branches of this  
30 Commonwealth.

1 (c) Membership.--The commission shall consist of the  
2 following members:

3 (1) Four members of the General Assembly, one each  
4 appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, the  
5 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of  
7 Representative.

8 (2) A member of the judiciary or a designee who shall be  
9 appointed by the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme  
10 Court.

11 (3) Twenty members of the public appointed under  
12 subsection (d) representing stakeholders as follows:

13 (i) Two representatives, one of whom shall represent  
14 an organization that focuses on rural poverty and one of  
15 whom shall represent an organization that focuses on  
16 urban and suburban poverty.

17 (ii) Two individuals who have experienced deep  
18 poverty.

19 (iii) One representative of an organization that  
20 advocates for health care access, affordability and  
21 availability.

22 (iv) One representative of an organization that  
23 advocated for individuals with mental illness.

24 (v) One representative of an organization that  
25 advocates for children and youth.

26 (vi) One representative of an organization that  
27 advocates for equity and equality in education.

28 (vii) One representative of an organization that  
29 advocates for individual who are homeless.

30 (viii) One representative of a Statewide antihunger

1 organization.

2 (ix) One representative of an organization that  
3 advocates for military veterans.

4 (x) One representative of an organization that  
5 advocates for individuals with disabilities.

6 (xi) One representative of an organization that  
7 advocates for immigrants.

8 (xii) One representative of a Statewide faith-based  
9 organization that provides direct social services in this  
10 Commonwealth.

11 (xiii) One representative of an organization that  
12 advocates for economic security for women.

13 (xiv) One representative of an organization that  
14 advocates for older adults.

15 (xv) One representative of a labor organization that  
16 represents primarily low-wage and middle-wage earners.

17 (xvi) One representative of school districts in this  
18 Commonwealth.

19 (xvii) One representative of county governments in  
20 this Commonwealth.

21 (xviii) One representative of municipal corporation  
22 governments in this Commonwealth.

23 (4) The members of the workgroup shall serve as  
24 nonvoting ex officio members of the commission.

25 (d) Appointment.--The following shall apply:

26 (1) The public members of the commission under  
27 subsection (c) (3) shall be appointed as follows:

28 (i) Four shall be appointed by the Governor.

29 (ii) Four shall be appointed by the President pro  
30 tempore of the Senate.

1 (iii) Four shall be appointed by the Minority Leader  
2 of the Senate.

3 (iv) Four shall be appointed by the Speaker of the  
4 House of Representatives.

5 (v) Four shall be appointed by the Minority Leader  
6 of the House of Representatives.

7 (2) It shall be determined by lot which appointing  
8 authority appoints which public members to the commission.

9 (3) The appointed members shall reflect the racial,  
10 gender and geographic diversity of this Commonwealth and  
11 shall include representation from regions of this  
12 Commonwealth experiencing economic insecurity and the highest  
13 rates of deep poverty.

14 (4) Public members of the commission shall be selected  
15 for service on the commission within 45 days of the effective  
16 date of this section.

17 (e) Qualifications.--Each member of the commission must have  
18 been a resident of this Commonwealth for a period of at least  
19 one year immediately preceding appointment and must continue  
20 residence in this Commonwealth during the member's tenure of  
21 service on the commission.

22 (f) Organizational meeting.--The organizational meeting of  
23 the commission shall take place after all members are appointed  
24 but no later than 60 days after the effective date of this  
25 section.

26 (g) Compensation.--Members shall serve without compensation,  
27 but public members may be reimbursed for reasonable and  
28 necessary travel expenses connected to commission business.

29 (h) Commission chairperson.--The representatives of the  
30 antipoverty organizations appointed under subsection (c) (3) (i)



1 shall serve as cochairs of the commission.

2 (i) Committees.--The commission may establish subcommittees  
3 to address specific issues or populations and may collaborate  
4 with individuals with relevant expertise who are not members of  
5 the commission to assist the subcommittee in carrying out its  
6 duties.

7 (j) Meetings.--The full commission shall meet at least once  
8 annually.

9 (k) Quorum.--A majority plus one of the voting members shall  
10 constitute a quorum.

11 (l) Voting.--All actions of the commission and any  
12 subcommittees established by the commission shall be approved by  
13 majority vote of the commission or subcommittee as applicable.

14 (m) Open meetings.--The meetings of the commission shall be  
15 conducted in accordance with the provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7  
16 (relating to open meetings).

17 (n) Administrative support.--The Department of Human  
18 Services shall provide staff and administrative support to  
19 assist the commission in carrying out its duties.

20 Section 502. Strategic plan to address poverty and economic  
21 insecurity.

22 (a) Plan required.--No later than November 30, 2022, the  
23 commission shall develop and adopt a strategic plan to address  
24 poverty and economic insecurity in this Commonwealth.

25 (b) Goals.--The goals of the strategic plan shall be to:

26 (1) Ensure that Commonwealth programs and services  
27 targeting poverty and economic insecurity reflect the goal of  
28 helping individuals and families rise above poverty and  
29 achieve long-term economic stability rather than simply  
30 providing relief from deprivation.

1           (2) Eliminate disparate rates of poverty, deep poverty,  
2 child poverty and intergenerational poverty based on race,  
3 ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation or identity,  
4 English language proficiency, ability and geographic location  
5 in a rural, urban or suburban area.

6           (3) Reduce deep poverty in this Commonwealth by 50% by  
7 2028.

8           (4) Eliminate child poverty in this Commonwealth by  
9 2033.

10          (5) Eliminate all poverty in this Commonwealth by 2038.

11          (c) Plan development.--In developing the strategic plan, the  
12 commission shall:

13           (1) Collaborate with the workgroup, including sharing  
14 data and information identified under section 303(1) and (3)  
15 and analyses of that data and information.

16           (2) Review each program and service provided by the  
17 Commonwealth that targets poverty and economic insecurity for  
18 purposes of:

19               (i) determining which programs and services are the  
20 most effective and of the highest importance in reducing  
21 poverty and economic insecurity in this Commonwealth; and

22               (ii) providing an analysis of unmet needs, if any,  
23 among individuals, children and families in deep poverty  
24 and intergenerational poverty for each program and  
25 service identified under subparagraph (i).

26           (3) Study the feasibility of using public/private  
27 partnerships and social impact bonds, to improve innovation  
28 and cost-effectiveness in the development of programs and  
29 delivery of services that advance the goals of the strategic  
30 plan.

1 (4) Hold at least six public hearings in different  
2 geographic regions of this Commonwealth, including areas that  
3 have disparate rates of poverty and that have historically  
4 experienced economic insecurity, to collect information, take  
5 testimony and solicit input and feedback from interested  
6 parties, including members of the public who have personal  
7 experiences with Commonwealth programs and services targeting  
8 economic insecurity, poverty, deep poverty, child poverty and  
9 intergenerational poverty and make the information publicly  
10 available.

11 (5) To request and receive from a Commonwealth agency or  
12 local government agency information relating to poverty in  
13 this Commonwealth, including all of the following:

- 14 (i) Reports.
- 15 (ii) Audits.
- 16 (iii) Data.
- 17 (iv) Projections.
- 18 (v) Statistics.

19 (d) Subject areas.--The strategic plan shall address all of  
20 the following:

- 21 (1) Access to safe and affordable housing.
- 22 (2) Access to adequate food and nutrition.
- 23 (3) Access to affordable and quality health care.
- 24 (4) Equal access to quality education and training.
- 25 (5) Equal access to affordable, quality post-secondary  
26 education options.
- 27 (6) Dependable and affordable transportation.
- 28 (7) Access to quality and affordable child care.
- 29 (8) Opportunities to engage in meaningful and  
30 sustainable work that pays a living wage and barriers to

1 those opportunities experienced by low-income individuals in  
2 poverty.

3 (9) Equal access to justice through a fair system of  
4 criminal justice that does not, in effect, criminalize  
5 poverty.

6 (10) Availability of adequate income supports.

7 (11) Retirement security.

8 (e) Plan content.--The strategic plan shall, at a minimum,  
9 contain policy and fiscal recommendations relating to all of the  
10 following:

11 (1) Developing fact-based measures to evaluate the long-  
12 term effectiveness of existing and proposed programs and  
13 services targeting poverty and economic insecurity.

14 (2) Increasing enrollment in programs and services  
15 targeting poverty and economic insecurity by reducing the  
16 complexity and difficulty of enrollment in order to maximize  
17 program effectiveness and increase positive outcomes.

18 (3) Increasing the reach of programs and services  
19 targeting poverty and economic insecurity by ensuring that  
20 Commonwealth agencies have adequate resources to maximize the  
21 public awareness of the programs and services, especially in  
22 historically disenfranchised communities.

23 (4) Reducing the negative impacts of asset limits for  
24 eligibility on the effectiveness of Commonwealth programs  
25 targeting poverty and economic insecurity by ensuring that  
26 eligibility limits do not:

27 (i) create gaps in necessary service and benefit  
28 delivery or restrict access to benefits as individuals  
29 and families attempt to transition off assistance  
30 programs; or

1           (ii) prevent beneficiaries from improving long-term  
2 outcomes and achieving long-term economic independence  
3 from the program.

4           (5) Improving the ability of community-based  
5 organizations to participate in the development and  
6 implementation of Commonwealth programs designed to address  
7 economic insecurity and poverty.

8           (6) Improving the ability of individuals living in  
9 poverty, low-income individuals and unemployed individuals to  
10 access critical job training and skills upgrade programs and  
11 find quality jobs that help children and families become  
12 economically secure and rise above poverty.

13           (7) Improving communication and collaboration between  
14 Commonwealth agencies and local governments on programs  
15 targeting poverty and economic insecurity.

16           (8) Creating efficiencies in the administration and  
17 coordination of programs and services targeting poverty and  
18 economic insecurity.

19           (9) Connecting low-income children, disconnected youth  
20 and families of those children and youth to education, job  
21 training and jobs in the communities in which those children  
22 and youth live.

23           (10) Ensuring that the Commonwealth's services and  
24 benefits programs, emergency programs, discretionary economic  
25 programs and other policies are sufficiently funded to enable  
26 the Commonwealth to mount effective responses to economic  
27 downturns and increases in economic insecurity and poverty  
28 rates.

29           (11) Creating one or more Commonwealth poverty measures.

30           (12) Developing and implementing programs and policies

1 that use the two-generation approach.

2 (13) Using public/private partnerships and social impact  
3 bonds to improve innovation and cost effectiveness in the  
4 development of programs and delivery of services that advance  
5 the goals of the strategic plan.

6 (14) Identifying best practices for collecting data  
7 relevant to all of the following:

8 (i) Reducing economic insecurity and poverty.

9 (ii) Reducing the racial, ethnic, age, gender,  
10 sexual orientation and sexual identity-based disparities  
11 in the rates of economic insecurity and poverty.

12 (iii) Adequately measuring the effectiveness,  
13 efficiency and impact of programs on the outcomes for  
14 individuals, families and communities who receive  
15 benefits and services.

16 (iv) Streamlining enrollment and eligibility for  
17 programs.

18 (v) Improving long-term outcomes for individuals who  
19 are enrolled in service and benefit programs.

20 (vi) Reducing reliance on public programs.

21 (vii) Improving connections to work.

22 (viii) Improving economic security.

23 (ix) Improving retirement security.

24 (x) Improving the Commonwealth's understanding of  
25 the impact of extreme weather and natural disasters on  
26 economically vulnerable communities and improving those  
27 communities' resilience to and recovery from extreme  
28 weather and natural disasters.

29 (xi) Improving access to living-wage employment.

30 (xii) Improving access to employment-based benefits.

1 (f) Other information.--In addition to the plan content  
2 required under subsection (e), the strategic plan shall contain  
3 all of the following:

4 (1) A suggested timeline for the stages of  
5 implementation of the recommendations in the plan.

6 (2) Short-term, intermediate-term and long-term  
7 benchmarks to measure the Commonwealth's progress toward  
8 meeting the goals of the strategic plan.

9 (3) A summary of the review and analysis conducted by  
10 the commission under subsection (c)(1).

11 (g) Impact of recommendations.--For each recommendation in  
12 the plan, the commission shall identify in measurable terms the  
13 actual or potential impact the recommendation will have on  
14 poverty and economic insecurity in this Commonwealth.

15 Section 503. Commission reports.

16 (a) Interim report.--No later than June 30, 2022, the  
17 commission shall issue an interim report on the commission's  
18 activities to the Governor and the General Assembly.

19 (b) Report on strategic plan.--Upon the commission's  
20 adoption of the strategic plan, but no later than November 30,  
21 2023, the commission shall issue a report containing a summary  
22 of the commission's activities and the contents of the strategic  
23 plan. The commission shall submit the report to the Governor and  
24 each member of the General Assembly.

25 (c) Annual reports.--Beginning November 30, 2024, and each  
26 year thereafter, the commission shall issue a report on the  
27 status of the implementation of the commission's strategic plan.  
28 The report may contain any other recommendations of the  
29 commission to address poverty and economic insecurity in this  
30 Commonwealth.

1 Section 504. Duties of the Secretary of the Budget.

2 The Secretary of the Budget shall include in the materials  
3 submitted to the General Assembly outlining the Governor's  
4 proposed annual budget a description of any budget proposals or  
5 other activities, ongoing projects and plans of the executive  
6 branch designed to meet the goals and objectives of the  
7 strategic plan. The information shall include the following:

8 (1) An accounting of the savings to the Commonwealth  
9 from any increased efficiencies in the delivery of services.

10 (2) Any savings realized from reducing the number of  
11 individuals living in poverty and reducing the demand for  
12 need-based services and benefits.

13 (3) A projection of any increase in revenue collections  
14 due to any increase in the number of individuals who become  
15 employed and pay taxes into the State Treasury.

16 (4) Any other information related to the proposed annual  
17 budget the Secretary of the Budget believes furthers the  
18 goals and objectives of the strategic plan.

19 CHAPTER 7

20 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

21 Section 701. (Reserved).

22 Section 702. (Reserved).

23 Section 703. Effective date.

24 This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.