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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2012 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY KENYATTA, MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS,  
DELLOSO, SANCHEZ, LEE, INNAMORATO, HOWARD, McCLINTON, SIMS,  
BURGOS, FRANKEL, PARKER, KIRKLAND, FITZGERALD, N. NELSON,  
RABB AND STURLA, OCTOBER 26, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, OCTOBER 26, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An  
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public  
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance,  
4 further providing for uniformity in administration of  
5 assistance and regulations as to assistance.

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

8 Section 1. Section 403(b) of the act of June 13, 1967  
9 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, is amended to  
10 read:

11 Section 403. Uniformity in Administration of Assistance;  
12 Regulations as to Assistance.--\* \* \*

13 (b) (1) The department shall establish rules, regulations  
14 and standards, consistent with the law, as to eligibility for  
15 assistance and as to its nature and extent. The department is  
16 authorized to seek waivers from the Federal Government to  
17 enhance consistency between Federal program standards,  
18 requirements or procedures. This shall not be interpreted to

1 require the department to seek waivers to achieve consistency  
2 among standards, requirements or procedures in Federal programs,  
3 except as specifically required under other provisions in this  
4 article. Whenever possible, except for residency requirements  
5 for general assistance, and consistent with State law, the  
6 department shall establish rules, regulations and standards for  
7 general assistance consistent with those established for aid to  
8 families with dependent children. In no instance shall the  
9 rules, regulations and standards established for general  
10 assistance provide for assistance greater than that provided for  
11 aid to families with dependent children. If three or more  
12 general assistance recipients reside together in the same  
13 household, their income eligibility and cash assistance shall be  
14 no greater than income eligibility and cash assistance from aid  
15 to families with dependent children for a household of the same  
16 size. The secretary or a written designee is the only person  
17 authorized to adopt regulations, orders, or standards of general  
18 application to implement, interpret, or make specific the law  
19 administered by the department. The secretary shall issue  
20 interim regulations whenever changes in Federal laws and  
21 regulations supersede existing statutes. In adopting  
22 regulations, orders, or standards of general application, the  
23 secretary shall strive for clarity of language which may be  
24 readily understood by those administering assistance and by  
25 those who apply for or receive assistance. For the purpose of  
26 this subsection, the term "household" does not include single-  
27 room occupancy residences, rooming houses, nonprofit residential  
28 programs or personal care facilities receiving charitable  
29 funding or Federal, State or local government funding.

30 (2) The department shall establish rules, regulations and

1 standards for the maximum monthly cash assistance received by a  
2 recipient or assistance group under this article to be equal to  
3 fifty percent of the Federal poverty level, based upon the  
4 applicable household size and composition, as determined  
5 annually by the United States Department of Health and Human  
6 Services. The maximum monthly cash benefit shall be annually  
7 adjusted for inflation as the percentage change in the United  
8 States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer  
9 Price Index for All Urban Consumers, not seasonally adjusted,  
10 all items index, or its successor index.

11 \* \* \*

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