
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 119 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, MADDEN, SANCHEZ,
HOHENSTEIN, PROBST, KRAJEWSKI, KINKEAD, N. NELSON AND
D. WILLIAMS, MARCH 7, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY AND
UTILITIES, MARCH 7, 2023

AN ACT

1 Providing for grants for renewable energy backup systems for the
2 community; and making an interfund transfer.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Sustainable
7 Community Safe House Grant Program Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

13 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
14 Development of the Commonwealth.

15 "Eligible political subdivision." A county, city, borough,
16 incorporated town or township and any council of governments
17 established among any of them.

1 "Fund." The State Sustainable Energy Fund established under
2 section 4(a).

3 "Program." The Sustainable Community Safe House Grant
4 Program established under section 3(a).

5 Section 3. Sustainable Community Safe House Grant Program.

6 (a) Establishment.--The Sustainable Community Safe House
7 Grant Program is established within the commission for the
8 purpose of providing grants under this act.

9 (b) Grants.--The commission shall award grants to eligible
10 political subdivisions for the purpose of creating and
11 maintaining renewable energy backup systems for the community. A
12 grant awarded under this act may not exceed \$250,000.

13 Section 4. State Sustainable Energy Fund.

14 (a) Establishment.--The State Sustainable Energy Fund is
15 established as a separate fund within the State Treasury. Money
16 in the fund shall be used for the purpose of this act.

17 (b) Continuing appropriation.--Money in the fund is
18 appropriated to the commission on a continuing basis to award
19 grants under this act.

20 (c) Transfer.--The sum of \$100,000,000 shall be transferred
21 from the General Fund to the fund.

22 Section 5. Administration.

23 (a) Guidelines.--The department shall promulgate guidelines
24 for the implementation and administration of this act.

25 (b) Application.--An application for a grant under this act
26 shall be submitted by an eligible political subdivision in the
27 form and manner as prescribed by the commission, which shall
28 contain, at a minimum, the following information:

29 (1) The name and contact information of the applicant.

30 (2) The address of the proposed sustainable community

1 safe house, and its current use, if applicable.

2 (3) The amount of grant money requested.

3 (4) The proposed use for the grant money requested.

4 (5) A description of the proposed sustainable energy
5 generation and storage plan.

6 (6) A description of how this supports the community.

7 (7) Any other information that the commission deems
8 necessary and appropriate.

9 (c) Public notice.--The commission shall provide information
10 regarding the availability and award of grant money on the
11 commission's publicly accessible Internet website.

12 Section 6. Awarding of grants.

13 (a) Determination.--Within 20 days of the submission of an
14 application for a grant under section 5(b), the commission shall
15 determine:

16 (1) Whether to disapprove, in total or in part, or
17 approve the application.

18 (2) If approved, the amount of the grant award.

19 (b) Considerations.--In awarding grant money to an eligible
20 political subdivision, the commission shall consider the
21 following:

22 (1) Geographic and demographic diversity of the
23 political subdivision applying for the grant money.

24 (2) How the community and other individuals within the
25 eligible political subdivision would be served through the
26 awarding of the grant to the eligible political subdivision.

27 (c) Notice.--

28 (1) The commission shall provide written notice to the
29 eligible political subdivision of the approval or disapproval
30 of an application submitted under section 5(b).

1 (2) If the application is approved, the notice of the
2 award of grant money shall include the amount of the grant
3 money awarded and any conditions or restrictions on the use
4 of the grant money.

5 (3) If the application is disapproved, the notice of the
6 disapproval of all or part of the application shall include
7 the reasons for the full or partial disapproval.

8 (4) The commission shall provide copies of all notices
9 to the department when they are provided to the department
10 and shall provide other documents, information and data to
11 the department immediately upon request.

12 Section 7. Report.

13 (a) General rule.--By September 30, 2024, or 60 days after
14 the expiration of this act, whichever occurs later, the
15 department shall prepare a report that lists each eligible
16 political subdivision that received a grant under this act and a
17 summary of the information required under section 5(b).

18 (b) Publication.--The report under subsection (a) shall be
19 posted on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

20 Section 8. Expiration.

21 This act shall expire December 31, 2024.

22 Section 9. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect immediately.