
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 211 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BLOOM, DIGIROLAMO, WARD, LONGIETTI, DAVIS,
MILLARD, ZIMMERMAN, MACKENZIE, NEILSON, R. BROWN, WATSON,
KAUFFMAN, HILL-EVANS, PHILLIPS-HILL, HARKINS AND KAUFER,
APRIL 7, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, APRIL 7, 2017

AN ACT

1 Providing for a grant program for a Statewide 2-1-1 system and
2 imposing duties on the Department of Human Services.

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 Statewide 2-
7 1-1 System 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 "Department." The Department of Human Services of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Program." The Statewide 2-1-1 System Grant Program
15 established by this act.

16 "Statewide 2-1-1 system." A communication system that
17 provides health and human service assistance, through the

1 dissemination of information about applicable programs and
2 services provided by government and private and nonprofit
3 organizations in local communities, to residents throughout this
4 Commonwealth using the three-digit dialing code of 2-1-1.

5 Section 3. Statewide 2-1-1 System Grant Program.

6 (a) Establishment.--The Statewide 2-1-1 System Grant Program
7 is established in the department. The purpose of the program
8 shall be to provide a grant to a qualified applicant for the
9 development, implementation, operation and support of a
10 Statewide 2-1-1 system from funds appropriated or made available
11 to the department for that purpose.

12 (b) Duty of department.--The department shall develop and
13 implement a procedure to award a grant to a qualified applicant
14 for a Statewide 2-1-1 system. The grant shall be used for the
15 following purposes:

16 (1) To provide Statewide 2-1-1 system services 24 hours
17 each day throughout this Commonwealth, including to regions
18 of this Commonwealth that do not have access to a provider of
19 2-1-1 system services as of the effective date of this
20 section.

21 (2) To expand access to 2-1-1 system services and the
22 database to a 2-1-1 system through text-to-chat, mobile
23 application and a publicly accessible Internet website.

24 (3) To permit the disbursement of funds, with the
25 approval of the department, to regional providers of 2-1-1
26 system services for satisfying 2-1-1 quality assurance
27 standards used by similar programs in other states.

28 (4) For any other purpose deemed appropriate by the
29 department for carrying out the provisions of this act.

30 Section 4. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect in 60 days.