

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1322 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, KNOWLES, ROZZI, McGINNIS, CUTLER, BAKER, BLOOM, ENGLISH, MILLARD, KAUFFMAN, TOOHL, DIAMOND, TOEPEL, ACOSTA, PICKETT, MURT, HICKERNELL, WARD, GROVE, FEE, MILNE, SAYLOR, HEFFLEY, A. HARRIS, KLUNK, D. COSTA, JOZWIAK, COX, DAVIS, BOBACK, RADER, WARNER, SIMMONS, KRIEGER, PASHINSKI, GABLER, GILLEN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, MULLERY, IRVIN, WHITE, DeLUCA AND BURNS, JUNE 10, 2015

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 26, 2015

AN ACT

Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance, further providing for identification and proof of residence.

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

Section 1. Section 432.4 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, amended June 16, 1994 (P.L.319, No.49) and May 16, 1996 (P.L.175, No.35), is amended to read:

Section 432.4. Identification and Proof of Residence.--(a) All persons applying for assistance shall provide acceptable identification and proof of residence[; the department shall by regulations specify what constitutes acceptable identification and proof of residence]. A person shall be deemed to be a resident when he or she documents his or her residency and that

residency is verified by the department. Verification may include, but is not limited to the production of rent receipts, mortgage payment receipts, utility receipts, bank accounts or enrollment of children in local schools. General assistance applicants must establish that they have been residents of the Commonwealth for at least twelve months immediately preceding their application[.] and they are not receiving assistance from any other state. General assistance applicants shall disclose, in their application, all states in which they have resided ~~in~~ the last five years and in which they have collected a form of public assistance IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to General Assistance applicants who can establish that they moved to this Commonwealth to escape an abusive living situation. The department shall adopt rules governing the proof required to establish that the applicant has moved to this Commonwealth to escape an abusive living situation.

(a.1) When a general assistance applicant provides information that the applicant has collected a form of public assistance in another state, the Commonwealth shall notify the other state of the change in residency of the applicant.

(b) For the purpose of determining eligibility for assistance, the continued absence of a recipient from the Commonwealth for a period of thirty days or longer shall be prima facie evidence of the intent of the recipient to have changed his residence to a place outside the Commonwealth.

(c) If a recipient is prevented by illness or other good cause from returning to the Commonwealth at the end of thirty days, and has not acted to establish residence elsewhere, he

shall not be deemed to have lost his residence in the Commonwealth.

(d) When a recipient of aid to families with dependent children or general assistance is absent from the United States for a period in excess of thirty days, his aid shall thereafter be suspended whenever need cannot be determined for the ensuing period of his absence.

(e) Beginning no later than September 1, 1994, the department shall collect information on all general assistance applicants to determine how long they have been residents of this Commonwealth. The department shall report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than December 31, 1995. Based on its findings, the department may make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on changes to the residency requirement for general assistance recipients.

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