



Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Room 168 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3031
(717) 787-8524
FAX (717) 772-0576

Senator Patricia H. Vance
Chairman

Amy Powell Bolze, Esq.
Executive Director

Summary SB 977 PN 1114

Established in Act 80 of 2012, the Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program permitted certain eligible counties the ability to move funds in otherwise narrowly defined appropriations in order to meet indicated needs. This bill eliminates the twenty county limit and gives all counties the ability to apply to the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) to participate in the program.

All references to the program being a "pilot" are deleted and language is added indicating a county's participation is voluntary. Counties may opt into the block grant program by submitting a Human Services Block Grant proposal to DPW, holding at least two public hearings on the plan, and being approved for participation by the department. Counties deciding to opt out of the program once they are accepted shall submit written notice. The opt out will become effective at the beginning of the next State fiscal year.

Additionally, language is added which permits DPW to reallocate any unspent funds from the previous fiscal year which are found in any of the seven separate allocations combined into the Human Services Block Grant Program. These funds may then be used in the same manner as the block grant allocation. For example, mental health dollars unspent in the previous fiscal year could be reallocated and spent on drug and alcohol programs.

Effective Date

This act shall take effect immediately.