

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1425 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY PARKER, MADDEN, KINSEY, KAZEEM, SANCHEZ, PROBST, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, MAYES, O'MARA, GREEN, FIEDLER, SHUSTERMAN, OTTEN, KHAN, CURRY, D. WILLIAMS AND HANBIDGE, JUNE 20, 2023

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 25, 2024

AN ACT

1 ~~Providing for a universal maternal home visiting program; and~~ <--
2 ~~conferring powers and imposing duties on the Office of Child~~
3 ~~Development and Early Learning.~~

4 PROVIDING FOR PLAN FOR MATERNAL HOME VISITING PROGRAMS; AND <--
5 CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES ON THE DEPARTMENT OF
6 HUMAN SERVICES.

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

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the ~~Universal~~ <--
11 Maternal Home Visiting Act.

12 Section 2. Definitions.

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

16 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OF THE <--
17 COMMONWEALTH.

18 "Eligible family." A family who is eligible for home

1 visiting services under a maternal home visiting program.

2 "Maternal home visiting program." An evidence-based home  
3 visiting model proven to improve child health and be cost  
4 effective., ~~as measured by the Home Visiting Evidence of~~ <--  
5 ~~Effectiveness (HomVEE) Program.~~

6 ~~"Office." The Office of Child Development and Early~~  
7 ~~Learning.~~

8 Section 3. ~~Universal maternal home visiting.~~ PLAN FOR MATERNAL <--  
9 HOME VISITING PROGRAMS.

10 (a) Purpose.--It is the goal of the Commonwealth to offer AN <--  
11 EXPANSION OF maternal home visiting programs ~~universally~~ to <--  
12 eligible families.

13 (b) Home visiting plan.--Within 100 days of the effective  
14 date of this subsection, the ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT shall establish a <--  
15 five-year plan, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDING, to offer <--  
16 VOLUNTARY, evidence-based maternal home visiting programs to <--  
17 eligible families. The ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT shall publish the plan <--  
18 on its publicly accessible Internet website.

19 (c) Contents of plan.--

20 (1) The plan may include THE FOLLOWING: <--

21 (i) ~~Expansion of~~ WHETHER existing maternal home <--  
22 visiting programs SHOULD BE EXPANDED. <--

23 (ii) Proposed applications for Federal and  
24 foundation grant funding.

25 (iii) Social ~~impact bonds~~ OUTCOMES. <--

26 ~~(iv) Other programs the office identifies that would~~ <--  
27 ~~result in an efficient expansion of maternal home~~  
28 ~~visiting service offerings.~~

29 (2) The plan shall ~~target expansion of~~ ADDRESS THE <--  
30 POTENTIAL TO EXPAND maternal home visiting programs by ~~at~~ <--

1 ~~least~~ UP TO 20% per year. <--

2 ~~(d) Office actions. The plan shall detail actions that the~~ <--  
3 ~~office may pursue without additional legislative action. Within~~  
4 ~~60 days of the plan's publication on the office's publicly~~  
5 ~~accessible Internet website, the office shall commence those~~  
6 ~~actions.~~

7 ~~(e) Action by General Assembly. For aspects of the plan~~  
8 ~~that require additional action by the General Assembly, the~~  
9 ~~office shall include in the plan specific requests and outlines~~  
10 ~~of legislative action needed, including budget requests.~~

11 (D) REPORT.--NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR THE PLAN <--  
12 IS IN EFFECT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO  
13 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN  
14 AND ACCESS TO MATERNAL HOME VISITING PROGRAMS. THE DEPARTMENT  
15 SHALL INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION IN EACH  
16 REPORT, IF APPLICABLE.

17 Section 4. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect in 60 days.