

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 253 Session of  
2021

INTRODUCED BY OWLETT, TOOHL, PICKETT, BOBACK, HILL-EVANS,  
HOHENSTEIN, RYAN, STEPHENS, KAUFFMAN, ROTHMAN, SCHLOSSBERG,  
R. BROWN, CIRESI, PASHINSKI, STRUZZI, WARREN, GLEIM, COX,  
MIZGORSKI, GUZMAN, T. DAVIS, McNEILL, SMITH AND E. NELSON,  
JANUARY 26, 2021

SENATOR BROWNE, APPROPRIATIONS, IN SENATE, RE-REPORTED AS  
AMENDED, JANUARY 25, 2022

## AN ACT

1 ~~Establishing a task force on the opioid abuse epidemic's impact~~ <--  
2 ~~on children and providing for powers and duties of the task~~  
3 ~~force.~~  
4 AMENDING THE ACT OF APRIL 9, 1929 (P.L.343, NO.176), ENTITLED <--  
5 "AN ACT RELATING TO THE FINANCES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT;  
6 PROVIDING FOR CANCER CONTROL, PREVENTION AND RESEARCH, FOR  
7 AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER DATA COLLECTION, FOR THE JOINT  
8 UNDERWRITING ASSOCIATION, FOR ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS  
9 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FIRMS, FOR PRIVATE DAM FINANCIAL  
10 ASSURANCE AND FOR REINSTATEMENT OF ITEM VETOES; PROVIDING FOR  
11 THE SETTLEMENT, ASSESSMENT, COLLECTION, AND LIEN OF TAXES,  
12 BONUS, AND ALL OTHER ACCOUNTS DUE THE COMMONWEALTH, THE  
13 COLLECTION AND RECOVERY OF FEES AND OTHER MONEY OR PROPERTY  
14 DUE OR BELONGING TO THE COMMONWEALTH, OR ANY AGENCY THEREOF,  
15 INCLUDING ESCHEATED PROPERTY AND THE PROCEEDS OF ITS SALE,  
16 THE CUSTODY AND DISBURSEMENT OR OTHER DISPOSITION OF FUNDS  
17 AND SECURITIES BELONGING TO OR IN THE POSSESSION OF THE  
18 COMMONWEALTH, AND THE SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE  
19 COMMONWEALTH, THE RESETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND APPEALS TO THE  
20 COURTS, REFUNDS OF MONEYS ERRONEOUSLY PAID TO THE  
21 COMMONWEALTH, AUDITING THE ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND  
22 ALL AGENCIES THEREOF, OF ALL PUBLIC OFFICERS COLLECTING  
23 MONEYS PAYABLE TO THE COMMONWEALTH, OR ANY AGENCY THEREOF,  
24 AND ALL RECEIPTS OF APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH,  
25 AUTHORIZING THE COMMONWEALTH TO ISSUE TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES  
26 TO DEFRAID CURRENT EXPENSES, IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF  
27 SECTION 7(A) OF ARTICLE VIII OF THE CONSTITUTION OF  
28 PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING AND RESTRICTING THE INCURRING OF  
29 CERTAIN DEBT AND IMPOSING PENALTIES; AFFECTING EVERY

1 DEPARTMENT, BOARD, COMMISSION, AND OFFICER OF THE STATE  
2 GOVERNMENT, EVERY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, AND  
3 CERTAIN OFFICERS OF SUCH SUBDIVISIONS, EVERY PERSON,  
4 ASSOCIATION, AND CORPORATION REQUIRED TO PAY, ASSESS, OR  
5 COLLECT TAXES, OR TO MAKE RETURNS OR REPORTS UNDER THE LAWS  
6 IMPOSING TAXES FOR STATE PURPOSES, OR TO PAY LICENSE FEES OR  
7 OTHER MONEYS TO THE COMMONWEALTH, OR ANY AGENCY THEREOF,  
8 EVERY STATE DEPOSITORY AND EVERY DEBTOR OR CREDITOR OF THE  
9 COMMONWEALTH," IN EMERGENCY COVID-19 RESPONSE, FURTHER  
10 PROVIDING FOR MONEY IN ACCOUNT; AND PROVIDING FOR OPIOID  
11 ABUSE CHILD IMPACT TASK FORCE AND FOR ARPA HEALTH CARE  
12 WORKFORCE SUPPORTS.

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

15 ~~Section 1. Short title.~~

<--

16 ~~This act shall be known and may be cited as the Opioid Abuse~~  
17 ~~Child Impact Task Force Act.~~

18 ~~Section 2. Declaration of policy.~~

19 ~~The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:~~

20 ~~(1) This Commonwealth is one of the states which has~~  
21 ~~been hardest hit by an epidemic of heroin and prescription~~  
22 ~~opioid abuse and addiction that is plaguing American society.~~

23 ~~(2) One of the more tragic consequences of this epidemic~~  
24 ~~is the devastating impact it has had and continues to have on~~  
25 ~~infants and children.~~

26 ~~(3) Newborns are suffering through withdrawal from~~  
27 ~~opioids because of prenatal exposure to these drugs.~~

28 ~~(4) Fatalities and near fatalities of infants and young~~  
29 ~~children have been linked to parental substance abuse.~~

30 ~~(5) Cases of child abuse and neglect linked to parental~~  
31 ~~substance abuse are increasing, as are the number of children~~  
32 ~~being removed from their homes and placed in protective~~  
33 ~~eustody because of their parents' drug addiction.~~

34 ~~(6) The Commonwealth has a responsibility to protect its~~  
35 ~~residents, especially children.~~

36 ~~Section 3. Definitions.~~

1       ~~The following words and phrases when used in this act shall~~  
2 ~~have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~  
3 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

4       ~~"Task force." The task force established in section 4.~~  
5 ~~Section 4. Establishment.~~

6       ~~A task force on the opioid abuse epidemic's impact on~~  
7 ~~children is established. The task force shall focus on improving~~  
8 ~~the safety, well being and permanency of substance exposed~~  
9 ~~infants and other young children affected by their parents'~~  
10 ~~substance abuse disorders.~~

11 ~~Section 5. Responsibilities.~~

12       ~~The task force is responsible for:~~

13           ~~(1) Identifying strategies and making short term and~~  
14 ~~long term recommendations to prioritize the prevention of~~  
15 ~~substance exposed infants.~~

16           ~~(2) Improving outcomes for pregnant and parenting women~~  
17 ~~who are striving to recover from addiction.~~

18           ~~(3) Promoting the health, safety and permanency of~~  
19 ~~substance exposed infants and other young children at risk of~~  
20 ~~child abuse and neglect or placement in foster care due to~~  
21 ~~parental alcohol and drug use.~~

22           ~~(4) Ensuring that the Commonwealth is compliant with the~~  
23 ~~Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Public Law 93-247,~~  
24 ~~42 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.) related to identifying substance~~  
25 ~~exposed infants and is developing multidisciplinary plans of~~  
26 ~~safe care for these infants.~~

27 ~~Section 6. Members and meetings.~~

28       ~~(a) Members. The task force is comprised of the following~~  
29 ~~members:~~

30           ~~(1) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee who~~

1 ~~shall be an employee of the Department of Human Services. The~~  
2 ~~designee shall be appointed by the Secretary of Human~~  
3 ~~Services in writing, and a copy of the appointment shall be~~  
4 ~~submitted to the chairperson of the task force.~~

5 ~~(2) The Secretary of Health or a designee who shall be~~  
6 ~~an employee of the Department of Health. The designee shall~~  
7 ~~be appointed by the Secretary of Health in writing, and a~~  
8 ~~copy of the appointment shall be submitted to the chairperson~~  
9 ~~of the task force.~~

10 ~~(3) The Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs or a~~  
11 ~~designee who shall be an employee of the Department of Drug~~  
12 ~~and Alcohol Programs. The designee shall be appointed by the~~  
13 ~~Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs in writing, and a copy~~  
14 ~~of the appointment shall be submitted to the chairperson of~~  
15 ~~the task force.~~

16 ~~(4) Three members appointed by the Senate, as follows:~~

17 ~~(i) two members appointed by the President pro~~  
18 ~~tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a layperson~~  
19 ~~who is a biological parent, foster parent or adoptive~~  
20 ~~parent of an infant or young child with current or~~  
21 ~~previous involvement in the child welfare system as a~~  
22 ~~result of a parent's substance abuse; and~~

23 ~~(ii) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of~~  
24 ~~the Senate.~~

25 ~~(5) Three members appointed by the House of~~  
26 ~~Representatives, as follows:~~

27 ~~(i) two members appointed by the Speaker of the~~  
28 ~~House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a~~  
29 ~~layperson who is a biological parent, foster parent or~~  
30 ~~adoptive parent of an infant or young child with current~~

1 ~~or previous involvement in the child welfare system as a~~  
2 ~~result of a parent's substance abuse; and~~

3 ~~(ii) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of~~  
4 ~~the House of Representatives.~~

5 ~~(6) Two members appointed by the Governor.~~

6 ~~(b) Qualifications. Except for laypersons appointed under~~  
7 ~~paragraphs (4) (i) and (5) (i), individuals appointed under~~  
8 ~~subsection (a) (4), (5) or (6) must possess professional~~  
9 ~~experience and expertise in:~~

10 ~~(1) obstetric medicine;~~

11 ~~(2) pediatric medicine;~~

12 ~~(3) behavioral health treatment;~~

13 ~~(4) early intervention programs;~~

14 ~~(5) county children and youth agency services;~~

15 ~~(6) child advocacy; or~~

16 ~~(7) neonatal intensive care unit nursing.~~

17 ~~(c) Chairperson. The Governor shall select the chairperson~~  
18 ~~of the task force.~~

19 ~~(d) Appointment. The members of the task force shall be~~  
20 ~~appointed within 25 days after the effective date of this~~  
21 ~~section.~~

22 ~~(e) Quorum. The physical presence of seven members~~  
23 ~~constitutes a quorum of the task force.~~

24 ~~(f) Majority vote. An action of the task force shall be~~  
25 ~~authorized or ratified by a majority vote of its members.~~

26 ~~(g) Meetings.—~~

27 ~~(1) The task force shall meet as necessary but no fewer~~  
28 ~~than five times during the period ending two months prior to~~  
29 ~~the issuance date of the report. The first meeting shall be~~  
30 ~~convened within 45 days following the effective date of this~~

1 ~~section.~~

2 ~~(2) Additional meetings may be called by the chairperson~~  
3 ~~as necessary.~~

4 ~~(3) The chairperson shall schedule a meeting upon~~  
5 ~~written request of eight members of the task force.~~

6 ~~(4) A member not physically present may participate by~~  
7 ~~teleconference or video conference.~~

8 ~~(h) Compensation. Members of the task force shall not~~  
9 ~~receive compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable and~~  
10 ~~necessary expenses incurred in service of the task force.~~

11 ~~Section 7. Duties.~~

12 ~~The task force has the following duties:~~

13 ~~(1) To examine and analyze the existing practices,~~  
14 ~~processes, procedures and laws relating to the diagnosis and~~  
15 ~~treatment of substance exposed infants.~~

16 ~~(2) To review and analyze the existing practices,~~  
17 ~~processes, procedures and laws relating to the safety, well-~~  
18 ~~being, permanency and placement of children at risk due to~~  
19 ~~their parents' substance abuse disorders.~~

20 ~~(3) To hold public hearings for the taking of testimony~~  
21 ~~and the requesting of documents.~~

22 ~~(4) To make relevant recommendations for improving the~~  
23 ~~safety, well being and permanency of substance exposed~~  
24 ~~infants and other children adversely affected by their~~  
25 ~~parents' substance abuse disorders.~~

26 ~~(5) To issue a report in accordance with section 10.~~

27 ~~Section 8. Hearings.~~

28 ~~The task force shall hold public hearings as necessary to~~  
29 ~~obtain the information required to conduct its review.~~

30 ~~Section 9. Agency cooperation.~~

1 ~~The Department of Human Services, the Department of Health~~  
2 ~~and the Joint State Government Commission shall cooperate to~~  
3 ~~provide administrative or other assistance to the task force.~~

4 ~~Section 10. Reports.~~

5 ~~(a) General rule. The task force shall prepare and submit,~~  
6 ~~two months prior to the expiration date of this act, a final~~  
7 ~~report on its activities, findings and recommendations to the~~  
8 ~~Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The task~~  
9 ~~force may file status reports and updates with the Governor, the~~  
10 ~~Senate and the House of Representatives as it deems appropriate.~~

11 ~~(b) Adoption of report. A report under this section shall~~  
12 ~~be adopted at a public meeting.~~

13 ~~(c) Public record. A report under this section shall be~~  
14 ~~available to the public.~~

15 ~~Section 11. Expiration.~~

16 ~~This act expires 12 months after the effective date of this~~  
17 ~~act.~~

18 ~~Section 12. Effective date.~~

19 ~~This act shall take effect immediately.~~

20 SECTION 1. SECTION 111-C(G) OF THE ACT OF APRIL 9, 1929 <--  
21 (P.L.343, NO.176), KNOWN AS THE FISCAL CODE, ADDED JUNE 30, 2021  
22 (P.L.62, NO.24), IS AMENDED TO READ:

23 SECTION 111-C. MONEY IN ACCOUNT.

24 \* \* \*

25 (G) TRANSFER.--

26 (1) FEDERAL MONEY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL  
27 RECOVERY FUND IN THE ACCOUNT OTHER THAN AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED  
28 UNDER PART XXX OF THE ACT OF JUNE 30, 2021 (P.L.1325, NO.1A),  
29 KNOWN AS THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION ACT OF 2021, AND ARTICLE  
30 I-J, SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR USE UNDER

1 [42 U.S.C. § 802(C) (1) (PUBLIC LAW 117-2, 135 STAT. 223)]  
2 SECTION 602(C) (1) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (49 STAT. 620,  
3 42 U.S.C. § 802(C) (1)) FOR FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING AFTER JUNE  
4 30, 2022.

5 (2) A TRANSFER UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) SHALL BE MADE BY THE  
6 STATE TREASURER ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

7 (I) FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR, THE TRANSFER  
8 SHALL BE MADE NO EARLIER THAN JULY 31, 2022.

9 (II) FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR, THE TRANSFER  
10 SHALL BE MADE NO EARLIER THAN JULY 31, 2023.

11 (3) THE AMOUNT OF THE TRANSFER UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) MADE  
12 FOR A FISCAL YEAR MAY NOT BE HIGHER THAN THE AMOUNT WHICH MAY  
13 BE USED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 802(C) (1) .

14 (4) ANY MONEY WHICH REMAINS IN THE ACCOUNT AFTER A  
15 TRANSFER UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) SHALL BE TRANSFERRED UNDER  
16 PARAGRAPH (2) IN THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR.

17 SECTION 2. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING ARTICLES TO READ:

18 ARTICLE I-I

19 OPIOID ABUSE CHILD IMPACT TASK FORCE

20 SECTION 101-I. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

21 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

22 (1) THIS COMMONWEALTH IS ONE OF THE STATES WHICH HAS  
23 BEEN HARDEST HIT BY AN EPIDEMIC OF HEROIN AND PRESCRIPTION  
24 OPIOID ABUSE AND ADDICTION THAT IS PLAGUING AMERICAN SOCIETY.

25 (2) ONE OF THE MORE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF THIS EPIDEMIC  
26 IS THE DEVASTATING IMPACT IT HAS HAD AND CONTINUES TO HAVE ON  
27 INFANTS AND CHILDREN.

28 (3) NEWBORNS ARE SUFFERING THROUGH WITHDRAWAL FROM  
29 OPIOIDS BECAUSE OF PRENATAL EXPOSURE TO THESE DRUGS.

30 (4) FATALITIES AND NEAR FATALITIES OF INFANTS AND YOUNG



1 CHILDREN HAVE BEEN LINKED TO PARENTAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

2 (5) CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT LINKED TO PARENTAL  
3 SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARE INCREASING, AS ARE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
4 BEING REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES AND PLACED IN PROTECTIVE  
5 CUSTODY BECAUSE OF THEIR PARENTS' DRUG ADDICTION.

6 (6) THE COMMONWEALTH HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT ITS  
7 RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN.

8 SECTION 102-I. DEFINITIONS.

9 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE  
10 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
11 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

12 "TASK FORCE." THE TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 103-I.  
13 SECTION 103-I. ESTABLISHMENT.

14 A TASK FORCE ON THE OPIOID ABUSE EPIDEMIC'S IMPACT ON  
15 CHILDREN IS ESTABLISHED. THE TASK FORCE SHALL FOCUS ON IMPROVING  
16 THE SAFETY, WELL-BEING AND PERMANENCY OF SUBSTANCE-EXPOSED  
17 INFANTS AND OTHER YOUNG CHILDREN AFFECTED BY THEIR PARENTS'  
18 SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS.

19 SECTION 104-I. RESPONSIBILITIES.

20 THE TASK FORCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

21 (1) IDENTIFYING STRATEGIES AND MAKING SHORT-TERM AND  
22 LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRIORITIZE THE PREVENTION OF  
23 SUBSTANCE-EXPOSED INFANTS.

24 (2) IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING WOMEN  
25 WHO ARE STRIVING TO RECOVER FROM ADDICTION.

26 (3) PROMOTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND PERMANENCY OF  
27 SUBSTANCE-EXPOSED INFANTS AND OTHER YOUNG CHILDREN AT RISK OF  
28 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT OR PLACEMENT IN FOSTER CARE DUE TO  
29 PARENTAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE.

30 (4) ENSURING THAT THE COMMONWEALTH IS COMPLIANT WITH THE

1 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT (PUBLIC LAW 93-247,  
2 42 U.S.C. § 5101 ET SEQ.) RELATED TO IDENTIFYING SUBSTANCE-  
3 EXPOSED INFANTS AND IS DEVELOPING MULTIDISCIPLINARY PLANS OF  
4 SAFE CARE FOR THESE INFANTS.

5 SECTION 105-I. MEMBERS AND MEETINGS.

6 (A) MEMBERS.--THE TASK FORCE IS COMPRISED OF THE FOLLOWING  
7 MEMBERS:

8 (1) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES OR A DESIGNEE WHO  
9 SHALL BE AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES. THE  
10 DESIGNEE SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN  
11 SERVICES IN WRITING, AND A COPY OF THE APPOINTMENT SHALL BE  
12 SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE.

13 (2) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH OR A DESIGNEE WHO SHALL BE  
14 AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. THE DESIGNEE SHALL  
15 BE APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH IN WRITING, AND A  
16 COPY OF THE APPOINTMENT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIRPERSON  
17 OF THE TASK FORCE.

18 (3) THE SECRETARY OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS OR A  
19 DESIGNEE WHO SHALL BE AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DRUG  
20 AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS. THE DESIGNEE SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE  
21 SECRETARY OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS IN WRITING, AND A COPY  
22 OF THE APPOINTMENT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF  
23 THE TASK FORCE.

24 (4) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SENATE, AS FOLLOWS:

25 (I) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT PRO  
26 TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A LAYPERSON  
27 WHO IS A BIOLOGICAL PARENT, FOSTER PARENT OR ADOPTIVE  
28 PARENT OF AN INFANT OR YOUNG CHILD WITH CURRENT OR  
29 PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AS A  
30 RESULT OF A PARENT'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE; AND

1           (II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF  
2           THE SENATE.

3           (5) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE HOUSE OF  
4           REPRESENTATIVES, AS FOLLOWS:

5           (I) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE  
6           HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A  
7           LAYPERSON WHO IS A BIOLOGICAL PARENT, FOSTER PARENT OR  
8           ADOPTIVE PARENT OF AN INFANT OR YOUNG CHILD WITH CURRENT  
9           OR PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AS A  
10           RESULT OF A PARENT'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE; AND

11           (II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF  
12           THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

13           (6) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

14           (B) QUALIFICATIONS.--EXCEPT FOR LAYPERSONS APPOINTED UNDER  
15           SUBSECTION (A) (4) (I) AND (5) (I), INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED UNDER  
16           SUBSECTION (A) (4), (5) OR (6) MUST POSSESS PROFESSIONAL  
17           EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN:

18           (1) OBSTETRIC MEDICINE;

19           (2) PEDIATRIC MEDICINE;

20           (3) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT;

21           (4) EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS;

22           (5) COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY SERVICES;

23           (6) CHILD ADVOCACY; OR

24           (7) NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT NURSING.

25           (C) CHAIRPERSON.--THE GOVERNOR SHALL SELECT THE CHAIRPERSON  
26           OF THE TASK FORCE.

27           (D) APPOINTMENT.--THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE  
28           APPOINTED WITHIN 25 DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
29           SECTION.

30           (E) QUORUM.--THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF SEVEN MEMBERS

1 CONSTITUTES A QUORUM OF THE TASK FORCE.

2 (F) MAJORITY VOTE.--AN ACTION OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE  
3 AUTHORIZED OR RATIFIED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF ITS MEMBERS.

4 (G) MEETINGS.--

5 (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AS NECESSARY BUT NO FEWER  
6 THAN FIVE TIMES DURING THE PERIOD ENDING TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO  
7 THE ISSUANCE DATE OF THE REPORT. THE FIRST MEETING SHALL BE  
8 CONVENED WITHIN 45 DAYS FOLLOWING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
9 SECTION.

10 (2) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS MAY BE CALLED BY THE CHAIRPERSON  
11 AS NECESSARY.

12 (3) THE CHAIRPERSON SHALL SCHEDULE A MEETING UPON  
13 WRITTEN REQUEST OF EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE.

14 (4) A MEMBER NOT PHYSICALLY PRESENT MAY PARTICIPATE BY  
15 TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE.

16 (H) COMPENSATION.--MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL NOT  
17 RECEIVE COMPENSATION BUT SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR REASONABLE AND  
18 NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN SERVICE OF THE TASK FORCE.

19 SECTION 106-I. DUTIES.

20 THE TASK FORCE HAS THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

21 (1) TO EXAMINE AND ANALYZE THE EXISTING PRACTICES,  
22 PROCESSES, PROCEDURES AND LAWS RELATING TO THE DIAGNOSIS AND  
23 TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE-EXPOSED INFANTS.

24 (2) TO REVIEW AND ANALYZE THE EXISTING PRACTICES,  
25 PROCESSES, PROCEDURES AND LAWS RELATING TO THE SAFETY, WELL-  
26 BEING, PERMANENCY AND PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN AT RISK DUE TO  
27 THEIR PARENTS' SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS.

28 (3) TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE TAKING OF TESTIMONY  
29 AND THE REQUESTING OF DOCUMENTS.

30 (4) TO MAKE RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE

1 SAFETY, WELL-BEING AND PERMANENCY OF SUBSTANCE-EXPOSED  
2 INFANTS AND OTHER CHILDREN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THEIR  
3 PARENTS' SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS.

4 (5) TO ISSUE A REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 109-I.  
5 SECTION 107-I. HEARINGS.

6 THE TASK FORCE SHALL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS AS NECESSARY TO  
7 OBTAIN THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO CONDUCT ITS REVIEW.

8 SECTION 108-I. AGENCY COOPERATION.

9 THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
10 AND THE JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION SHALL COOPERATE TO  
11 PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE OR OTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE TASK FORCE.

12 SECTION 109-I. REPORTS.

13 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THE TASK FORCE SHALL PREPARE AND SUBMIT,  
14 TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS ARTICLE, A FINAL  
15 REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
16 GOVERNOR, THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE TASK  
17 FORCE MAY FILE STATUS REPORTS AND UPDATES WITH THE GOVERNOR, THE  
18 SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

19 (B) ADOPTION OF REPORT.--A REPORT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL  
20 BE ADOPTED AT A PUBLIC MEETING.

21 (C) PUBLIC RECORD.--A REPORT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE  
22 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

23 SECTION 110-I. EXPIRATION.

24 THIS ARTICLE EXPIRES 12 MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
25 THIS SECTION.

26 ARTICLE I-J

27 ARPA HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE SUPPORTS

28 SECTION 101-J. DEFINITIONS.

29 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE  
30 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE

1 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

2 "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER." THE FOLLOWING:

3 (1) A LONG-TERM STRUCTURED RESIDENCE LICENSED UNDER 55  
4 PA. CODE CH. 5320 (RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS FOR LONG-TERM  
5 STRUCTURED RESIDENCE LICENSURE).

6 (2) A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY FOR ADULTS LICENSED  
7 UNDER ARTICLE X OF THE ACT OF JUNE 13, 1967 (P.L.31, NO.21),  
8 KNOWN AS THE HUMAN SERVICES CODE.

9 (3) A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY LICENSED UNDER 55  
10 PA. CODE CH. 3800 (RELATING TO CHILD RESIDENTIAL AND DAY  
11 TREATMENT FACILITIES) THAT MEETS THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE  
12 REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH  
13 TREATMENT SERVICES PROVIDED IN A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT  
14 FACILITY, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.  
15 THE TERM SHALL INCLUDE PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT  
16 FACILITIES AND NONACCREDITED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT  
17 FACILITIES.

18 (4) A PRIVATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL LICENSED UNDER 55 PA.  
19 CODE CH. 5300 (RELATING TO PRIVATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS).

20 (5) AN INPATIENT HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIC UNIT APPROVED  
21 UNDER 55 PA. CODE CH. 5100 (RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH  
22 PROCEDURES).

23 "CLINICAL CARE SERVICES." THE DIAGNOSTIC, TREATMENT OR  
24 REHABILITATIVE SERVICES PROVIDED IN AN ENTITY, INCLUDING THE  
25 FOLLOWING SERVICES:

26 (1) RADIOLOGY AND DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING, SUCH AS MAGNETIC  
27 RESONANCE IMAGING AND POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY.

28 (2) RADIATION THERAPY.

29 (3) RESPIRATORY THERAPY.

30 (4) PHLEBOTOMY.

1           (5) ELECTROCARDIOGRAM AND ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY.

2           (6) LABORATORY MEDICAL SERVICES.

3           "CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL." A HOSPITAL THAT MEETS EITHER OF  
4 THE FOLLOWING:

5           (1) HAS QUALIFIED UNDER SECTION 1861(MM) (1) OF THE  
6 SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (49 STAT. 620, 42 U.S.C. § 1395X(MM) (1))  
7 AS A CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL UNDER MEDICARE.

8           (2) A RURAL HOSPITAL THAT IS LICENSED UNDER SECTION 808  
9 OF THE ACT OF JULY 19, 1979 (P.L.130, NO.48), KNOWN AS THE  
10 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ACT, THAT PROVIDES INPATIENT MEDICAL  
11 CARE AND OTHER RELATED SERVICES FOR SURGERY, ACUTE MEDICAL  
12 CONDITIONS OR INJURIES AND THAT MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

13           (I) IS LOCATED IN A COUNTY OF THE SIXTH, SEVENTH OR  
14 EIGHTH CLASS THAT HAS NO MORE THAN TWO MEDICAL  
15 ASSISTANCE-ENROLLED GENERAL ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS.

16           (II) IS LOCATED IN A COUNTY THAT HAS GREATER THAN  
17 17% OF ITS POPULATION THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAL  
18 ASSISTANCE OR HAS GREATER THAN 10,000 PERSONS ELIGIBLE  
19 FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

20           (III) HAS NO MORE THAN 200 LICENSED AND STAFFED  
21 BEDS.

22           (IV) DOES NOT QUALIFY AS A CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL  
23 UNDER SECTION 1861(MM) (1) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT AS A  
24 CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL UNDER MEDICARE.

25           "DIRECT PATIENT CARE ACTIVITIES." THE DIRECT PERFORMANCE OF  
26 ANY THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO A PATIENT BY QUALIFIED STAFF:

27           (1) ASSESSMENT.

28           (2) EXAMINATION.

29           (3) TREATMENT.

30           (4) MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION.

1           (5) REHABILITATION.

2           (6) DIRECT CARE SERVICES.

3           (7) PREPARATION FOR CLINICAL CARE SERVICES.

4           "ENTITY." A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER, CRITICAL ACCESS  
5 HOSPITAL, HOSPITAL OR HIGH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HOSPITAL.

6           "HIGH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HOSPITAL." AS DETERMINED UNDER THE  
7 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DEPENDENCY PAYMENT PROVISIONS OF THE  
8 COMMONWEALTH'S APPROVED TITLE XIX STATE PLAN, BASED ON A  
9 HOSPITAL'S APPROVED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COST REPORT FOR FISCAL  
10 YEAR 2018-2019.

11          "HOSPITAL." AS FOLLOWS:

12           (1) THE TERM SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

13               (I) A HOSPITAL LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
14 UNDER SECTION 808 OF THE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ACT THAT  
15 PROVIDES INPATIENT MEDICAL CARE AND OTHER RELATED  
16 SERVICES FOR SURGERY, ACUTE MEDICAL CONDITIONS OR  
17 INJURIES.

18               (II) A HOSPITAL LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
19 UNDER SECTION 808 OF THE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ACT THAT  
20 SPECIALIZES IN SERVICES EXCLUSIVELY TO INFANTS, CHILDREN,  
21 ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS FROM BIRTH UP TO THE AGE OF  
22 21.

23               (III) A CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL.

24           (2) THE TERM SHALL NOT INCLUDE A FEDERAL VETERANS'  
25 AFFAIRS HOSPITAL AND A STATE-OWNED PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL.

26           "QUALIFIED STAFF." AN EMPLOYEE OF AN ENTITY WHO IS INVOLVED  
27 IN DIRECT PATIENT CARE ACTIVITIES, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES OR  
28 CLINICAL CARE SERVICES. THE TERM SHALL NOT INCLUDE BEHAVIORAL  
29 HEALTH EXECUTIVES, HOSPITAL EXECUTIVES, CONTRACTED STAFF,  
30 ADMINISTRATORS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF OR PHYSICIANS.



1 SECTION 102-J. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

2 (A) HOSPITAL QUALIFIED STAFF RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT  
3 PAYMENTS.--FROM MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
4 SERVICES UNDER SUBSECTION (E) (1), \$100,000,000 SHALL BE USED FOR  
5 MAKING PAYMENTS TO HOSPITALS FOR MAKING RETENTION AND  
6 RECRUITMENT PAYMENTS TO QUALIFIED STAFF, WHICH SHALL BE  
7 DISTRIBUTED AS ONE-TIME PAYMENTS TO EACH HOSPITAL, DETERMINED AS  
8 FOLLOWS:

9 (1) DIVIDE:

10 (I) THE NUMBER OF A HOSPITAL'S LICENSED BEDS AS OF  
11 DECEMBER 30, 2021, AS DETERMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
12 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; BY

13 (II) THE TOTAL LICENSED HOSPITAL BEDS AS OF DECEMBER  
14 30, 2021, AS DETERMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
15 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

16 (2) MULTIPLY:

17 (I) THE QUOTIENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1); BY

18 (II) \$100,000,000.

19 (B) OTHER QUALIFIED STAFF RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT  
20 PAYMENTS.--FROM MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
21 SERVICES UNDER SUBSECTION (E) (2), \$110,000,000 SHALL BE USED FOR  
22 MAKING PAYMENTS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS, CRITICAL ACCESS  
23 HOSPITALS AND HIGH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HOSPITALS FOR STAFF  
24 RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT PAYMENTS TO QUALIFIED STAFF, WHICH  
25 SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED AS ONE-TIME PAYMENTS TO EACH BEHAVIORAL  
26 HEALTH PROVIDER, CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL AND HIGH MEDICAL  
27 ASSISTANCE HOSPITAL, DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:

28 (1) DIVIDE:

29 (I) THE UNDUPLICATED NUMBER OF THE LICENSED BEDS OF  
30 A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER, CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL OR

1 HIGH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HOSPITAL AS OF DECEMBER 30, 2021,  
2 AS DETERMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
3 HEALTH; BY

4 (II) THE UNDUPLICATED TOTAL LICENSED BEDS OF ALL  
5 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS, CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS  
6 AND HIGH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HOSPITALS AS OF DECEMBER 30,  
7 2021, AS DETERMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT  
8 OF HEALTH.

9 (2) MULTIPLY:

10 (I) THE QUOTIENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1); BY

11 (II) \$110,000,000.

12 (C) CONDITIONS.--THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO RECEIPT OF PAYMENTS  
13 RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION:

14 (1) A PAYMENT RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
15 SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT SUPPLANT EXISTING STAFF  
16 WAGES AND MAY NOT OTHERWISE BE REIMBURSED BY FEDERAL OR STATE  
17 FUNDING.

18 (1.1) A QUALIFIED STAFF MEMBER MAY ONLY RECEIVE ONE  
19 PAYMENT FOR RETENTION OR RECRUITMENT UNDER THIS SECTION.

20 (2) AN ENTITY RECEIVING A PAYMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
21 HUMAN SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION MUST BE IN OPERATION AS OF  
22 DECEMBER 30, 2021, AND MUST MAINTAIN OPERATIONS UNTIL AT  
23 LEAST DECEMBER 31, 2022.

24 (3) AN ENTITY RECEIVING A PAYMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
25 HUMAN SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SPEND THE FUNDS BY  
26 THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES:

27 (I) STAFF RETENTION PAYMENTS UNDER SUBSECTIONS (A)  
28 AND (B) SHALL BE MADE WITHIN 90 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF  
29 PAYMENT.

30 (II) STAFF RECRUITMENT PAYMENTS UNDER SUBSECTIONS

1           (A) AND (B) SHALL BE MADE WITHIN 180 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF  
2           PAYMENT.

3           (4) AN ENTITY RECEIVING A PAYMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
4           HUMAN SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT, IN A  
5           FORM AND MANNER AS PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
6           SERVICES, AS FOLLOWS:

7           (I) AN ENTITY RECEIVING A PAYMENT FROM THE  
8           DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) SHALL SUBMIT A  
9           REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT BY:

10           (A) SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, REGARDING STAFF  
11           RETENTION PAYMENTS.

12           (B) DECEMBER 31, 2022, REGARDING STAFF  
13           RECRUITMENT PAYMENTS.

14           (II) A REPORT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL INCLUDE THE  
15           FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

16           (A) THE NUMBER OF STAFF PAYMENTS OR BONUSES,  
17           INCLUDING ANY ADDITIONAL RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT  
18           INCENTIVES, REGARDLESS OF FUNDING SOURCE.

19           (B) THE RATIO OF PERMANENT STAFF TO CONTRACTED  
20           AGENCY/TEMPORARY STAFF AS OF DECEMBER 30, 2021,  
21           VERSUS THAT RATIO AS OF THE SUBMISSION DATE OF THE  
22           REPORT.

23           (C) THE AMOUNT OF A STAFF PAYMENT OR BONUS PER  
24           EMPLOYEE, INCLUDING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EACH TYPE OF  
25           PAYMENT OR BONUS.

26           (D) THE TYPES OR CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES  
27           THAT RECEIVED A BONUS OR PAYMENT.

28           (E) THE CRITERIA USED FOR DETERMINING A STAFF  
29           PAYMENT OR BONUS, INCLUDING WHETHER AND HOW STAFF  
30           WERE ENGAGED IN THE DETERMINATION.

1                   (F) THE PLAN FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION  
2                   THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

3                   (G) THE NUMBER OF THE EMPLOYEES WHO RECEIVED A  
4                   BONUS OR PAYMENT, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES  
5                   WHO RECEIVED A BONUS OR PAYMENT AND ARE STILL  
6                   EMPLOYED AT THE FACILITY ON THE SUBMISSION DATE OF  
7                   THE REPORT.

8                   (H) ANY OTHER CRITERIA REQUIRED BY FEDERAL OR  
9                   STATE LAW OR GUIDANCE.

10                  (5) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MAY RECOVER A  
11                  PAYMENT FROM AN ENTITY THAT RECEIVES PAYMENT FROM THE  
12                  DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE ENTITY DOES NOT COMPLY  
13                  WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION OR WITH FEDERAL OR STATE  
14                  LAW OR GUIDANCE. AN ENTITY THAT RECEIVES A PAYMENT FROM THE  
15                  DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE DOCUMENTS,  
16                  RECORDS AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO A PAYMENT MADE UNDER  
17                  THIS SECTION IN THE TIME, MANNER AND FORMAT REQUESTED BY  
18                  EITHER THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OR BY ANY OTHER  
19                  COMMONWEALTH OR FEDERAL AGENCY THAT IS AUTHORIZED TO AUDIT  
20                  THE PAYMENTS.

21                  (D) REPORT.--WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE REPORTING DEADLINES UNDER  
22                  SUBSECTION (C), THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN  
23                  CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SHALL ISSUE A REPORT  
24                  TO THE CHAIRPERSON AND MINORITY CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
25                  APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE CHAIRPERSON AND  
26                  MINORITY CHAIRPERSON OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE  
27                  HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE AGGREGATE EMPLOYEE BONUS  
28                  AND PAYMENT INFORMATION RECEIVED UNDER SUBSECTION (C). THE  
29                  REPORT SHALL BE POSTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES'  
30                  PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE. THE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

1 REPORT MAY NOT INCLUDE ANY PROPRIETARY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION  
2 PLAN INFORMATION.

3 (E) APPROPRIATION.--THE FOLLOWING FEDERAL AMOUNTS ARE  
4 APPROPRIATED ON A CONTINUING BASIS FROM THE COVID-19 RESPONSE  
5 RESTRICTED ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES:

6 (1) THE SUM OF \$100,000,000 IS APPROPRIATED TO THE  
7 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR COVID RELIEF - HOSPITAL  
8 WORKFORCE ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

9 (2) THE SUM OF \$110,000,000 IS APPROPRIATED TO THE  
10 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR COVID RELIEF - HEALTHCARE  
11 WORKFORCE ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

12 SECTION 103-J. PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY.

13 (A) STUDENT LOAN RELIEF FOR NURSES PROGRAM.--NOTWITHSTANDING  
14 ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, FROM MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE  
15 PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY UNDER SUBSECTION  
16 (B), \$15,000,000 SHALL BE USED TO FUND THE PENNSYLVANIA STUDENT  
17 LOAN RELIEF FOR NURSES PROGRAM.

18 (B) FEDERAL FUNDS.--FROM THE COVID-19 RESPONSE RESTRICTED  
19 ACCOUNT, FEDERAL FUNDS ARE APPROPRIATED ON A CONTINUING BASIS IN  
20 THE SUM OF \$15,000,000 TO THE PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION  
21 ASSISTANCE AGENCY FOR PENNSYLVANIA STUDENT LOAN RELIEF FOR  
22 NURSES PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

23 SECTION 3. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.