

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 739 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, BROOKS, BURGOS, CIRESI, HENNESSEY, HILL-  
EVANS, KENYATTA, McNEILL, MILLARD, NEILSON, OWLETT,  
SAMUELSON, TOOHL, WARREN, WHEELAND AND ZIMMERMAN,  
MARCH 3, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 3, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An  
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public  
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance,  
4 providing for payments for burial services; and abrogating a  
5 regulation.

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

8 Section 1. Article IV of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,  
9 No.21), known as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a  
10 subarticle to read:

11 (n) Burial Services Allowance

12 Section 494. Payments for Burial Services.--(a) The  
13 department shall pay a burial or cremation allowance in the  
14 amount of \$900 for the following:

15 (1) Individuals who received Supplemental Security Income.

16 (2) Individuals who received cash benefits from the  
17 department prior to death.

18 (3) Individuals found eligible for cash assistance prior to

1 death.

2 (4) Residents of nursing homes who received Supplemental  
3 Security Income or nursing home care payments prior to and  
4 continuously since January 1, 1973.

5 (b) This amount may be supplemented by the decedent's estate  
6 or another party in an amount not to exceed \$900, in accordance  
7 with the eligibility requirements of 55 Pa. Code § 283.3  
8 (relating to requirements for payment). Individuals who die but  
9 did not apply for assistance shall be reviewed for eligibility  
10 to qualify for a grant allowance. If eligible, an allowance  
11 shall be paid by the department.

12 (c) Separate payments totaling an amount not to exceed the  
13 amounts authorized in subsections (a) and (b) may be made for  
14 funeral, cemetery and crematorium expenses.

15 (d) The amounts specified in subsections (a) and (b) shall  
16 increase by \$50 each year for five consecutive years after the  
17 effective date of this section.

18 Section 2. The provisions of 55 Pa. Code § 283.21 are  
19 abrogated. All other provisions of 55 Pa. Code are abrogated  
20 insofar as they are inconsistent with this act.

21 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.