

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 245 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, MARTIN, REGAN, BROOKS, STEFANO, ROTHMAN, BAKER, HUTCHINSON, VOGEL, AUMENT, MASTRIANO AND J. WARD, JANUARY 31, 2023

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, JANUARY 31, 2023

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 further providing for reports to General Assembly.

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

7 Section 1. Section 437 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,
8 No.21), known as the Human Services Code, is amended to read:

9 Section 437. Reports to General Assembly.--(a) Two copies
10 of all reports required by the national center for social
11 statistics of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare
12 shall be furnished to the Senate Public Health and Welfare
13 Committee and the Health and Welfare Committee of the House of
14 Representatives when they are submitted to the Federal
15 Government. Similar reports prepared concerning general
16 assistance, the State Blind Pension and State supplemental
17 assistance shall be similarly furnished to the committees.

18 (b) The department shall also issue an annual report to the

1 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Health and Human
2 Services Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and
3 minority chairperson of the Human Services Committee of the
4 House of Representatives that includes the following
5 information:

6 (1) Details on information relating to the changes in how
7 lottery winnings are counted for all forms of cash assistance,
8 including the following:

9 (i) Details on how many applicants reported lottery winnings
10 of six hundred dollars (\$600) or more.

11 (ii) Details on how many of those applicants were denied
12 assistance due to lottery winnings of six hundred dollars (\$600)
13 or more.

14 (iii) Details on any potential gaps in communication
15 encountered between the department and county assistance offices
16 which may have resulted in the failed reporting of winnings of
17 six hundred dollars (\$600) or more.

18 (iv) Details regarding ongoing strategies between the
19 department and the Pennsylvania State Lottery in carrying out
20 the program.

21 (2) Details on how many vehicles were exempted in total as a
22 result of the provisions covered under this article.

23 (3) Details on the average equity value of vehicles counted
24 as resources for all recipients.

25 (4) Details on information regarding replacement access
26 devices, including the following:

27 (i) Details on how many recipients requested a replacement
28 access device under section 485(a).

29 (ii) Details on how many additional access devices were
30 issued under section 485(b) and (b.1).

1 (iii) Details on how many times the fee for replacement
2 access devices was overridden.

3 (iv) Details on how many recipients were reported to the
4 Office of Inspector General for requesting two or more
5 replacement access devices in a calendar year.

6 (5) Details on how many instances recipients attempted to
7 make purchases or withdraw funds in violation of section 484.

8 (6) Details highlighting any changes in reports from
9 previous years.

10 (7) Any recommendations to the General Assembly that the
11 department may deem necessary to improve the implementation of
12 this article.

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