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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2011 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BLOOM, BOBACK, CUTLER, LONGIETTI, WARD, GROVE,  
MILNE, COHEN, MILLARD, NEUMAN, M. K. KELLER, EVERETT,  
PICKETT, PETRI, REGAN, KNOWLES, ZIMMERMAN, NEILSON,  
MACKENZIE, KILLION, SONNEY, GINGRICH, FARRY, ORTITAY AND  
SIMS, MAY 3, 2016

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 3, 2016

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AN ACT

1 Providing for a grant program for a Statewide 2-1-1 system and  
2 imposing duties on the Department of Health.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Statewide 2-  
7 1-1 System Grant Program Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

13 "Program." The Statewide 2-1-1 System Grant Program  
14 established by this act.

15 "Statewide 2-1-1 system." A communication system that  
16 provides health and human service assistance, through the

1 dissemination of information about applicable programs and  
2 services provided by government and private and nonprofit  
3 organizations in local communities, to residents throughout this  
4 Commonwealth using the three-digit dialing code of 2-1-1.

5 Section 3. Statewide 2-1-1 System Grant Program.

6 (a) Establishment.--The Statewide 2-1-1 System Grant Program  
7 is established in the department. The purpose of the program  
8 shall be to provide a grant to a qualified applicant for the  
9 development, implementation, operation and support of a  
10 Statewide 2-1-1 system, from funds appropriated or made  
11 available to the department for that purpose.

12 (b) Duty of department.--The department shall, in  
13 consultation with the Department of Human Services, develop and  
14 implement a procedure to award a grant to a qualified applicant  
15 for a Statewide 2-1-1 system. The grant shall be used for the  
16 following purposes:

17 (1) To provide Statewide 2-1-1 system services 24 hours  
18 each day throughout this Commonwealth, including to regions  
19 of this Commonwealth that do not have access to a provider of  
20 2-1-1 system services as of the effective date of this  
21 section.

22 (2) To expand access to 2-1-1 system services and the  
23 database to a 2-1-1 system through text-to-chat, mobile  
24 application and a publicly accessible Internet website.

25 (3) To permit the disbursement of funds, with the  
26 approval of the department, to regional providers of 2-1-1  
27 system services for satisfying 2-1-1 quality assurance  
28 standards used by similar programs in other states.

29 (4) For any other purpose deemed appropriate by the  
30 department for carrying out the provisions of this act.

1 Section 4. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect in 60 days.