

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 936 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, BURGOS, CIRESI, FREEMAN, GUENST, JAMES, SAMUELSON AND FLEMING, APRIL 17, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 17, 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 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.

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

15 (1) Individuals who received Supplemental Security
 16 Income.

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

19 (3) Individuals found eligible for cash assistance prior

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

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

15 (d) Increase.--The amounts specified in subsections (a) and
16 (b) shall increase by \$50 each year for five consecutive years
17 after the 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 the addition of Subarticle
21 (n) of Article IV of the act.

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