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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 112 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, HILL-EVANS, PROBST, SANCHEZ, KINSEY,  
GUENST, MADDEN, MALAGARI, PARKER, CONKLIN, HOWARD, GILLEN,  
KINKEAD, NEILSON, CERRATO, D. WILLIAMS AND KHAN,  
MARCH 7, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 7, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the State Emergency Supplemental Grant Program;  
2 imposing duties on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management  
3 Agency; establishing the State Emergency Supplemental  
4 Assistance Fund; and making a transfer.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the State  
9 Emergency Supplemental Grant Program Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Disaster." An event that causes substantial damage in this  
15 Commonwealth, including a natural disaster, that requires a  
16 disaster declaration.

17 "Eligible item." An essential item that is covered under the

1 program if damaged in a Federal disaster declaration or State  
2 disaster declaration, including:

- 3 (1) Housing.
- 4 (2) Temporary rental assistance.
- 5 (3) Personal property.
- 6 (4) Medical or dental care.
- 7 (5) Transportation.
- 8 (6) Funeral costs.
- 9 (7) Any other essential item.

10 "Eligible person." A person who:

11 (1) If an individual, is a resident of this Commonwealth  
12 or, if an entity, has its principal place of business in this  
13 Commonwealth.

14 (2) Experiences damage as the direct result of a  
15 disaster in this Commonwealth that received a disaster  
16 declaration.

17 (3) For a Federal disaster declaration, has applied for  
18 a grant through the Federal agency and has received the  
19 maximum grant from the Federal agency's individual assistance  
20 grant programs.

21 "Federal agency." The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

22 "Federal disaster declaration." A federally declared  
23 disaster declaration granted by the President of the United  
24 States at the request of the Governor that indicates a disaster  
25 situation exists in this Commonwealth and allows for the  
26 implementation of individual assistance programs.

27 "Federally appraised loss." The assessed value of damage  
28 sustained from a disaster as determined by the Federal  
29 Government.

30 "Fund." The State Emergency Supplemental Assistance Fund

1 established under section 6.

2 "Program." The State Emergency Supplemental Grant Program  
3 established under section 3.

4 "State agency." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management  
5 Agency.

6 "State disaster." A declaration by the Governor of disaster  
7 emergency under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c) (relating to general  
8 authority of Governor).

9 "Supplemental grant." A grant award provided by the program  
10 through the State agency to an eligible person.

11 Section 3. State Emergency Supplemental Grant Program.

12 (a) Establishment.--The State Emergency Supplemental Grant  
13 Program is established within the State agency.

14 (b) Administration.--The State agency shall administer the  
15 program for the purpose of providing supplemental grants to  
16 eligible persons who have:

17 (1) for a Federal disaster declaration, received the  
18 maximum grant allowance from the Federal agency's programs;

19 or

20 (2) for a State disaster declaration, sustained loss of  
21 an eligible item.

22 Section 4. Program guidelines.

23 (a) Application.--The State agency shall coordinate with the  
24 Federal agency on a procedure that permits an application from  
25 an eligible person for assistance from the Federal agency to be  
26 automatically transmitted to the State agency for processing  
27 after the individual receives the maximum grant award from the  
28 Federal agency. The State agency shall:

29 (1) Use information obtained from the Federal agency to  
30 award supplemental grants.

1 (2) Follow the Federal agency's guidelines to determine  
2 and administer supplemental grants under the program.

3 (b) Use of supplemental grant money.--Supplemental grant  
4 money may only be used for eligible items and shall be spent on  
5 the eligible items for which the funding was specifically  
6 awarded.

7 (c) Grant amounts.--

8 (1) For a Federal disaster declaration, an eligible  
9 person may receive a supplemental grant equal to the  
10 difference between the grant amount received from the Federal  
11 agency and the federally appraised loss, provided that the  
12 supplemental grant award does not exceed \$10,000.

13 (2) For a State disaster declaration, an eligible person  
14 who is:

15 (i) An individual may receive a supplemental grant  
16 not to exceed an amount determined by the State agency.

17 (ii) An entity may receive a supplemental grant not  
18 to exceed an amount determined by the State agency.

19 (3) In determining the amounts under paragraph (2), the  
20 State agency may consider the number of applications, the  
21 amount of loss of eligible items and the amount of available  
22 money in the fund.

23 (d) Exclusions.--The following items shall not be covered  
24 under the program:

25 (1) Home improvements, additions and upgrades on real or  
26 personal property.

27 (2) Preexisting conditions on housing or personal  
28 property.

29 (3) Landscaping.

30 (4) Recreational real or personal property.

1           (5) Debts or other financial obligations that a person  
2 incurred prior to the disaster.

3           (6) Luxury, nonessential and decorative items.

4           (7) Cash.

5           (8) Other items determined by the State agency to be  
6 nonessential.

7 Section 5. Repayment of grants.

8       An eligible person may not be required to repay a  
9 supplemental grant unless the supplemental grant money was not  
10 spent according to the program guidelines or was obtained  
11 fraudulently. In such case, the total amount of the supplemental  
12 grant received shall be repaid to the State agency under such  
13 terms as specified by the State agency.

14 Section 6. State Emergency Supplemental Assistance Fund.

15       The State Emergency Supplemental Assistance Fund is  
16 established in the State Treasury. The money in the fund is  
17 appropriated on a continuing basis to the State agency for the  
18 purposes of supplemental grants under the program.

19 Section 7. Funding.

20       Beginning in fiscal year 2023-2024 and each fiscal year  
21 thereafter, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board shall transfer  
22 \$5,000,000 to the fund.

23 Section 8. Regulations.

24       The State agency shall promulgate regulations necessary to  
25 administer this act.

26 Section 9. Effective date.

27       This act shall take effect in 90 days.