
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1938 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY HOHENSTEIN, KHAN, KAZEEM, McANDREW, PROBST,
CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, GUENST, HILL-EVANS, HADDOCK AND SCHLOSSBERG,
JANUARY 2, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, JANUARY 2, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 28, 1995 (P.L.89, No.18), entitled "An
2 act creating the Department of Conservation and Natural
3 Resources consisting of certain functions of the Department
4 of Environmental Resources and the Department of Community
5 Affairs; renaming the Department of Environmental Resources
6 as the Department of Environmental Protection; defining the
7 role of the Environmental Quality Board in the Department of
8 Environmental Protection; making changes to responsibilities
9 of the State Conservation Commission and the Department of
10 Agriculture; transferring certain powers and duties to the
11 Department of Health; and repealing inconsistent acts,"
12 providing for recreational services for individuals with
13 disabilities.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. The act of June 28, 1995 (P.L.89, No.18), known
17 as the Conservation and Natural Resources Act, is amended by
18 adding a chapter to read:

19 CHAPTER 7

20 RECREATIONAL SERVICES FOR

21 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

22 Section 701. Scope of chapter.

1 This chapter relates to recreational services for individuals
2 with disabilities.

3 Section 702. Declaration of purpose.

4 The General Assembly finds and declares that it is the public
5 policy of the Commonwealth to encourage and support the
6 promotion, planning, development, implementation and maintenance
7 of comprehensive recreational services by municipalities for
8 individuals with disabilities in this Commonwealth.

9 Section 703. Definitions.

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

13 "Individual with a disability." An individual who has an
14 intellectual disability or who has a visual impairment, an
15 auditory impairment, a communication impairment, a neurological
16 or perceptual impairment, an orthopedic impairment, a chronic
17 illness, an emotional disturbance, a social impairment, multiple
18 disabilities or a developmental disability.

19 "Participating municipality." A municipality that
20 participates in the program.

21 "Program." The comprehensive program for individuals with
22 disabilities developed under section 704.

23 Section 704. Comprehensive program for individuals with
24 disabilities.

25 The department shall, after consultation with an expert in
26 the area of recreational services and the Department of Human
27 Services, develop a comprehensive program for the provision of
28 recreational services by municipalities for individuals with
29 disabilities. The department shall promulgate regulations as
30 necessary to implement the program.

1 Section 705. Application for participation in program.

2 A municipality may submit an application to the department to
3 participate in the program in a form and manner determined by
4 the department, including a municipality seeking to contract
5 with a private, nonprofit organization for the provision of
6 recreational services for individuals with disabilities.

7 Section 706. Reimbursement to participating municipalities.

8 Upon the approval of a municipality's application by the
9 department under section 705, the department shall reimburse the
10 participating municipality for an amount not to exceed \$5 for
11 each \$1 appropriated by the participating municipality for the
12 provision of recreational services for individuals with
13 disabilities.

14 Section 707. Special program events for individuals with
15 disabilities.

16 The department shall prepare a list of appropriate special
17 program events for individuals with disabilities, including the
18 Special Olympics and the Tournament of Champions or an
19 equivalent event, and make the list available to a participating
20 municipality.

21 Section 708. Application to operate special program events.

22 A participating municipality may submit an application to the
23 department for a grant to operate a special program event in a
24 form and manner determined by the department.

25 Section 709. Grants to participating municipalities.

26 Upon the approval of a participating municipality's
27 application by the department under section 708, the department
28 shall provide a grant to the participating municipality to
29 provide training, transportation and supervision for individuals
30 with disabilities engaging in the special program event. In the

1 case of a participating municipality that is a city, borough,
2 incorporated town or township, the amount of a grant awarded
3 annually under this section to the participating municipality
4 shall not exceed \$1,000. In the case of a participating
5 municipality that is a county, the amount of a grant awarded
6 annually under this section to the participating municipality
7 shall not exceed \$2,500. The total aggregate amount of grants
8 awarded annually under this section shall not exceed \$25,000.

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