

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2133 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, PASHINSKI, CONKLIN, BOBACK, BULLOCK,
ENGLISH, HAHN, HEFFLEY, MENTZER, MOUL, RADER, READSHAW,
ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG, SIMMONS, SOLOMON, STAATS, STEPHENS,
TOEPEL, TOOHIL, WARD, WARREN, WHEELAND, YOUNGBLOOD, M. QUINN,
DOWLING, DALEY, KORTZ, R. BROWN, MICCARELLI, BARBIN, FARRY,
McCLINTON, SANTORA, HANNA AND SCHWEYER, MARCH 9, 2018

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, JUNE 22, 2018

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program in the
2 Department of Human Services; and providing for kinship
3 caregiver navigator website and for kinship caregiver
4 navigators.

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 Kinship
9 Caregiver Navigator 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 "Area agency on aging." The single local agency designated
15 within a planning and service area by the Department of Aging to
16 develop and administer the delivery of a comprehensive and

1 coordinated plan of social services and activities for older
2 adults.

3 "Child." An individual under 18 years of age.

4 "Contractor." An organization that is awarded a contract by
5 the department to establish the Kinship Caregiver Navigator
6 Program.

7 "County agency." A county children and youth social service
8 agency under the act of June 24, 1937 (P.L.2017, No.396), known
9 as the County Institution District Law, and supervised by the
10 department under Article IX of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,
11 No.21), known as the Human Services Code.

12 "Department." The Department of Human Services of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Kinship caregiver." An individual who:

15 (1) is at least 21 years of age;

16 (2) lives with and is responsible for the care of a
17 child; and

18 (3) is related within the fifth degree of consanguinity
19 or affinity to the parent or stepparent of the child.

20 "Kinship caregiver navigator." An individual who has been
21 trained by the department to understand the various State agency
22 systems serving kinship caregivers and assist in accessing
23 Federal, State and local services and supports available to
24 kinship caregivers.

25 "Program." The Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program
26 established by this act.

27 "Website." The kinship caregiver navigator website created
28 and maintained by the contractor.

29 Section 3. Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program.

30 (a) Establishment.--

1 (1) The Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program is
2 established in the department.

3 (2) The department shall develop a proposal and solicit
4 a contractor to administer the program. Any person determined
5 eligible by the department may submit a proposal. The
6 department shall enter into a contract OR AGREEMENT with the <--
7 person whose proposal has been selected to administer the
8 program.

9 (b) Minimum criteria.--The contractor shall, at a minimum:

10 (1) Create and maintain a website pursuant to section 4.

11 (2) Create and maintain a kinship caregiver toll-free
12 telephone number or hotline to provide supportive listening
13 and guidance to kinship caregivers or persons who intend to
14 become kinship caregivers.

15 (3) Develop and provide training for individuals to
16 serve as kinship caregiver navigators.

17 (4) Educate the public on services and supports
18 available to kinship caregivers, including developing and
19 administering a Statewide marketing campaign. The contractor
20 may coordinate with other State and county agencies, area
21 agencies on aging, local education agencies and community
22 organizations to assist in disseminating information.

23 Section 4. Kinship caregiver navigator website.

24 (a) General rule.--The contractor shall develop a kinship
25 caregiver navigator website that provides information on support
26 and services available to current kinship caregivers and
27 prospective kinship caregivers.

28 (b) Required information.--The website shall include
29 information, including, but not limited to, the following:

30 (1) Federal and State programs.

1 (2) Support groups for kinship caregivers and children
2 in the kinship caregiver's care.

3 (3) Respite services for kinship caregivers.

4 (4) Financial aid.

5 (5) Relevant legal resources and assistance.

6 (6) Education and supportive services for children.

7 (7) Training for current and prospective kinship
8 caregivers.

9 (8) The toll-free telephone number established under
10 section 3(b)(2).

11 (c) Live chat feature.--The website may include a live chat
12 feature.

13 (d) Feedback and suggestions.--The website shall include a
14 section for individuals to provide feedback and make
15 suggestions.

16 Section 5. Kinship caregiver navigators.

17 A kinship caregiver navigator shall:

18 (1) Assist kinship caregivers with finding information
19 for relevant Federal and State benefits, local supports and
20 services.

21 (2) Mediate with State agency staff or service providers
22 and, when necessary, assist in establishing relationships
23 between kinship caregivers and relevant Federal and State
24 agency staff.

25 (3) Work with the local area agency on aging and county
26 agency to identify and provide outreach to kinship caregivers
27 in need of additional services.

28 (4) Refer kinship caregivers to the appropriate county
29 agency contact.

30 Section 6. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect in 180 days.