

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 211 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, BAKER, SCHWANK, COSTA, AUMENT, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH, HAYWOOD, RESCHENTHALER, SCAVELLO, WARD, FONTANA, KILLION, BLAKE AND ARGALL, MARCH 24, 2017

SENATOR BAKER, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 13, 2017

AN ACT

1 Providing for a grant program for a Statewide 2-1-1 system; and
2 imposing duties on the Department of ~~Health~~ HUMAN SERVICES. <--

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~~ HUMAN SERVICES of the <--
13 Commonwealth.

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

16 "Statewide 2-1-1 system." A communication system that
17 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 available
11 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.