

No. 77

AN ACT

HB 1456

Authorizing the Department of Community Affairs to develop and administer an Urban Technical Assistance Program, requiring an annual report to the Governor, providing cooperation with other State and Federal agencies, granting certain powers to the Secretary of Community Affairs and making an appropriation.

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

Section 1. Short Title.—This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Pennsylvania Urban Assistance Act of 1969.”

Section 2. Findings and Purposes.—The General Assembly finds that improving the quality of life in Pennsylvania’s metropolitan areas is of primary importance in stimulating further development of the Commonwealth and that to accomplish that end on a coordinated basis that there is a need to:

(1) Utilize more effectively the expertise available in the field of public administration and encourage the interchange of this expertise.

(2) Develop more effective cooperation among political, civic, industrial and commercial leadership.

(3) Provide the necessary incentives for Federal-State-local cooperation to meet the economic, physical, social and institutional needs of Pennsylvania communities.

(4) Establish the framework, both organizational and financial, for a closer and more cooperative relationship between the public and the private sectors.

(5) Provide the necessary framework for the development and delivery of solutions to the interrelated problems of the metropolitan centers of Pennsylvania.

Section 3. Definitions.—The following terms, whenever used or referred to in this act shall have the following meanings except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

“Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

“Secretary” means the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs.

“Demonstration” means any new mode of approach employed as an attempt to solve a problem for which aid under existing programs is not available.

“Urban unit” means an integrated economic and social unit with an urban population nucleus.

“Applicant” means a municipality of over fifteen thousand population,

according to the latest United States Census, which serves as the nucleus of the urban unit.

Section 4. Program Authorization.—(a) The department is hereby authorized to aid urban units in:

(1) Establishing community planning, development and research programs.

(2) Carrying out demonstration projects defined to develop solutions to the physical, human, environmental and administrative problems faced by the urban unit.

(3) Instituting personnel exchange and training programs.

(4) Developing techniques for the successful accomplishment of this act and in seeking greater citizen involvement in solving the problems of the urban unit.

(5) Establishing human resource development programs.

(6) Creating more effective public administration and municipal management.

(7) Applying other available resources or methods to carry out the intent of this act.

(b) The department is hereby authorized to contract with, cooperate with, enter into agreements with, and receive financial assistance from any agency of the Federal Government or of the Commonwealth and any political subdivision, authority, corporation, organization, association, institution, or person and to provide grants to any political subdivision, authority, corporation, or organization in furtherance of the execution of the powers contained herein.

(c) The secretary shall employ such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this act and shall have the power to convene or authorize his representatives to convene official representatives of other Commonwealth departments or agencies to enable the department to exercise the power and perform the duties specified by Article XXV-C of "The Administrative Code of 1929," the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177), as added by the act of February 1, 1966 (P.L.1849); and as specified by the act of May 20, 1949 (P.L.1608), known as the "State Planning Code," as amended by the act of February 2, 1966 (P.L.1899).

(d) In carrying out the authorization contained in this section the department shall make maximum feasible use of available local, State, Federal and private programs and resources, utilizing funds under this act only when necessary in engineering, executing, and complementing coordinated solutions to community problems of interdependent causation.

Section 5. General Powers and Duties, Regulations.—(a) In order to effectuate and enforce the provisions of this act, the secretary is authorized to promulgate necessary rules and regulations and prescribe conditions and procedures in order to assure compliance in carrying out the purposes for which aid is given hereunder.

(b) The conditions for eligibility shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) Existence of critical community development problems which offer the possibility of developing techniques for solving such problems.

(2) Demonstration of a lack of sufficient local resources to effectively solve these problems.

(3) Existence of strong local, political and civic leadership willing and able to relate to and coordinate with State efforts.

(4) Indication of a willingness to develop the administrative machinery and qualified permanent professional staff.

(5) Establishment of an Urban Technical Assistance Coordinating Committee under such conditions as determined by the secretary.

(c) The department shall submit to the Governor an annual report covering the administration and operation of this act, and shall make such recommendations for amendments to this act as it deems proper. Such reports and recommendations shall be presented on or about December 31 of each year.

Section 6. Appropriation.—The sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) is hereby specifically appropriated to the department to be used as authorized by this act. The funds appropriated under this act shall be segregated within the department and remain available until expended.

Section 7. Effective Date.—This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 21st day of March, A. D. 1970.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 77.



Secretary of the Commonwealth.