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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 439 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY KNOWLES, BAKER, WATSON, JAMES, TRUITT, WHEATLEY,  
TALLMAN, KAUFFMAN, HARHART, A. HARRIS, GILLEN, MILLARD,  
GROVE, LAWRENCE, SONNEY AND TOBASH, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An  
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public  
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in Human Services Block  
4 Grant Pilot Program; further providing for establishment of  
5 program.

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

8 Section 1. Section 1402-B of the act of June 13, 1967  
9 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, amended July  
10 9, 2013 (P.L.369, No.55) is amended to read:

11 Section 1402-B. Establishment of Human Services Block Grant  
12 Pilot Program.

13 The following shall apply to the Human Services Block Grant  
14 Pilot Program:

15 (1) The Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program is  
16 established for the purpose of allocating block grant funds  
17 to county governments to provide locally identified county-  
18 based human services that will meet the service needs of  
19 county residents. A county's request to participate in the

1 block grant shall be on a form and contain such information  
2 as the department may prescribe.

3 (2) The department may approve a county's request based  
4 on the county's plan to provide human services and integrate  
5 its human service programs. A county with a history of  
6 participation or application to participate in the block  
7 grant shall have priority over a county which has not  
8 previously applied for the block grant. The department shall  
9 also consider diversity in representation of counties,  
10 regarding such factors as:

11 (i) Geographic location.

12 (ii) Total population.

13 (iii) Urban, rural and suburban population.

14 (iv) Proximity to a large urban area.

15 (v) County class.

16 (vi) Form of county government.

17 (vii) Whether the county is part of a local  
18 collaborative arrangement.

19 (viii) The county's human services administrative  
20 structure.

21 (3) [No more than 30 counties] Any county may  
22 participate in the block grant in any fiscal year. A county's  
23 participation in the block grant is voluntary.

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