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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 437 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, HAYWOOD, SCHWANK, COLLETT, FONTANA,  
SANTARSIERO, KANE, KEARNEY, DILLON, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, MUTH  
AND STREET, MARCH 14, 2023

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REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 14, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Providing for the study of intergenerational poverty;  
2 establishing the Intergenerational Poverty Tracking System,  
3 the Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and Economic Insecurity  
4 and the Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty Elimination and  
5 Economic Security; providing for a strategic plan and for  
6 reports; and imposing duties on the Department of Human  
7 Services and the Secretary of the Budget.

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9 Section 703. Effective date.

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

12   CHAPTER 1

13   PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

14 Section 101. Short title.

15       This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
16 Intergenerational Poverty Act.

17 Section 102. Definitions.

18       The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
19 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
20 context clearly indicates otherwise:

21       "Antipoverty program." A program with the primary goal of  
22 lifting individuals out of poverty and improving economic  
23 opportunities for individuals that operates, in whole or in  
24 part, utilizing Federal or State money.

25       "Asset poverty." The inability of an individual to access  
26 wealth resources sufficient to provide for basic needs for a  
27 period of three months.

28       "Child." An individual who is under 18 years of age.

29       "Commission." The Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty  
30 Elimination and Economic Security established under section

1 501(a).

2 "Commonwealth poverty measure." A uniform method for  
3 measuring poverty in this Commonwealth that considers indicators  
4 and measures, other than traditional income-based measures of  
5 poverty, that provide a detailed picture of low-income and  
6 poverty populations and meaningfully account for other factors  
7 contributing to poverty and may include:

8 (1) access to health care, housing, proper nutrition and  
9 quality education;

10 (2) the number of individuals kept out of poverty by  
11 government supports;

12 (3) the number of individuals who are impoverished due  
13 to medical expenses, child-care expenses or work expenses;

14 (4) the rates of food insecurity;

15 (5) the number of individuals in asset poverty;

16 (6) the number of disconnected youth;

17 (7) the teen birth rate;

18 (8) the participation rate in Federal and State  
19 antipoverty programs for all eligible populations;

20 (9) the number of individuals who do not use a bank or  
21 similar financial institution;

22 (10) regional differences in costs of living;

23 (11) income necessary to achieve economic security and a  
24 livable standard of living in different regions of this  
25 Commonwealth;

26 (12) the impact of rising income inequality;

27 (13) the impact of the digital divide; and

28 (14) the impact of trauma on intergenerational poverty.

29 "Cycle of poverty." The set of factors or events by which  
30 the long-term poverty of an individual is likely to continue and

1 be experienced by each child of the individual when the child  
2 becomes an adult unless there is outside intervention.

3 "Deep poverty." An economic condition where an individual or  
4 family has a total annual income that is less than 50% of the  
5 Federal poverty level for the individual or family as provided  
6 in the annual report of the United States Census Bureau on  
7 Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United  
8 States.

9 "Department." The Department of Human Services of the  
10 Commonwealth.

11 "Deprivation." A lack of adequate nutrition, health care,  
12 housing or other resources to provide for basic needs.

13 "Digital divide." The gap between individuals, households,  
14 businesses and geographic areas at different socioeconomic  
15 levels related to access to information and communication  
16 technologies, including the imbalance in physical access to  
17 technology and the resources, education and skills needed to  
18 effectively use computer technology and the Internet for a wide  
19 variety of activities.

20 "Disconnected youth." Individuals who are 16 years of age to  
21 25 years of age who are unemployed and not enrolled in school.

22 "Economic insecurity." The inability to cope with routine  
23 adverse or costly life events and recover from the costly  
24 consequences of those events and the lack of economic means to  
25 maintain an adequate standard of living.

26 "Economic security." Having access to the economic means and  
27 support necessary to effectively cope with adverse or costly  
28 life events and recover from the consequences of such events  
29 while maintaining an adequate standard of living.

30 "Intergenerational poverty." Poverty in which two or more

1 successive generations of a family continue in the cycle of  
2 poverty and government dependence. The term does not include  
3 situational poverty.

4 "Outcome." A change in the economic status, economic  
5 instability or economic security of an individual, household or  
6 other population that is attributable to a planned intervention,  
7 benefit, service or series of interventions, benefits and  
8 services, regardless of whether the intervention, benefit or  
9 service was intended to change the economic status, economic  
10 stability or economic security.

11 "Poverty." An economic condition in which an individual or  
12 family has a total annual income that is less than the Federal  
13 poverty level for the individual or family, as provided in the  
14 report of the United States Census Bureau on Income, Poverty and  
15 Health Insurance Coverage in the United States.

16 "Situational poverty." Temporary poverty that meets all of  
17 the following:

18 (1) Is generally traceable to a specific incident or  
19 time period within the lifetime of an individual.

20 (2) Is not continued to the next generation.

21 "Strategic plan." The plan under section 502.

22 "System." The Intergenerational Poverty Tracking System  
23 established under section 301(a).

24 "Two-generation approach." An approach to breaking the cycle  
25 of intergenerational poverty by improving family economic  
26 security through programs that create opportunities for and  
27 address the needs of parents and children together.

28 "Workgroup." The Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and  
29 Economic Insecurity established under section 302.

30 CHAPTER 3

1 INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY

2 Section 301. Intergenerational poverty tracking system.

3 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish and  
4 maintain a data system to track intergenerational poverty, which  
5 shall be known as the Intergenerational Poverty Tracking System.

6 (b) System requirements.--The system shall have the ability  
7 to do all of the following:

8 (1) Identify groups that have a high risk of  
9 experiencing intergenerational poverty.

10 (2) Identify incidents, patterns and trends that explain  
11 or contribute to intergenerational poverty.

12 (3) Gather and track available local, State and national  
13 data on all of the following:

14 (i) Official poverty rates.

15 (ii) Child poverty rates.

16 (iii) Years spent by an individual in childhood  
17 poverty.

18 (iv) Years spent by an individual in adult poverty.

19 (v) Related poverty information.

20 (c) Duties of department.--The department shall do all of  
21 the following:

22 (1) Use available data in the system, including public  
23 assistance data, census data and other data made available to  
24 the department, to track intergenerational poverty.

25 (2) Develop and implement methods to integrate, compare,  
26 analyze and validate the data for the purposes described  
27 under subsection (b).

28 (3) Protect the privacy of an individual living in  
29 poverty by using and distributing data within the system in  
30 compliance with Federal and State laws.

1 (4) Include in the report required under section 304, a  
2 summary of the data, findings and potential additional uses  
3 of the system.

4 Section 302. Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and Economic  
5 Insecurity.

6 (a) Establishment.--The Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and  
7 Economic Insecurity is established.

8 (b) Membership.--The workgroup shall be comprised of the  
9 following members:

10 (1) The Secretary of Human Services, or a designee who  
11 is a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the  
12 department, who shall serve as chair.

13 (2) The Secretary of Labor and Industry, or a designee  
14 who is a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the  
15 Department of Labor and Industry.

16 (3) The Secretary of Education, or a designee who is a  
17 deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department of  
18 Education.

19 (4) The Secretary of Health, or a designee who is a  
20 deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department of  
21 Health.

22 (5) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development,  
23 or a designee who is a deputy secretary or the equivalent  
24 within the Department of Community and Economic Development.

25 (6) The Secretary of Aging, or a designee who shall be a  
26 deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department of  
27 Aging.

28 (7) The Secretary of Corrections, or a designee who  
29 shall be a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the  
30 Department of Corrections.

1           (8) The Secretary of Agriculture, or designee who shall  
2 be a deputy secretary or the equivalent within the Department  
3 of Agriculture.

4           (9) The Secretary of the Budget, or a designee.

5           (c) Meetings.--The workgroup shall meet no less than four  
6 times a year.

7 Section 303. Powers and duties.

8 The workgroup shall have the following powers and duties:

9           (1) To collaborate in sharing and analyzing information  
10 and data for all of the following purposes:

11           (i) Understanding the root causes of poverty and  
12 economic insecurity, including contributing social,  
13 economic and cultural factors.

14           (ii) Understanding and addressing intergenerational  
15 poverty by:

16           (A) Identifying children who are at risk of  
17 continuing in the cycle of poverty absent  
18 intervention.

19           (B) Identifying and developing effective and  
20 efficient plans, programs and recommendations to help  
21 at-risk children in this Commonwealth escape the  
22 cycle of poverty.

23           (C) Implementing data-driven policies and  
24 programs, to the extent authorized by law, addressing  
25 poverty, public assistance, education, economic  
26 development, criminal justice and other areas as  
27 needed to measurably reduce the incidence of children  
28 in this Commonwealth who remain in poverty as they  
29 become adults.

30           (D) Establishing and facilitating improved



1 cooperation, data sharing and policy coordination  
2 among all persons, from Commonwealth agencies to case  
3 workers, in rescuing children from intergenerational  
4 poverty.

5 (E) Studying and measuring the effect of  
6 intergenerational poverty on the ability of parents  
7 and children to achieve economic stability, including  
8 the effect on educational attainment, rates of  
9 incarceration, lifetime earnings, access to  
10 healthcare and access to housing.

11 (F) Studying, evaluating and reporting on the  
12 status and effectiveness of policies, procedures and  
13 programs that provide services to children in this  
14 Commonwealth affected by intergenerational poverty.

15 (G) Studying and evaluating the policies,  
16 procedures and programs implemented by other states  
17 and nongovernmental entities that address the needs  
18 of children affected by intergenerational poverty.

19 (H) Identifying Commonwealth policies,  
20 procedures and programs or Federal requirements that  
21 are impeding efforts to help children in this  
22 Commonwealth affected by intergenerational poverty  
23 escape the cycle of poverty.

24 (I) Developing and implementing programs and  
25 policies that use the two-generation approach.

26 (iii) Studying and measuring the effect that poverty  
27 and economic insecurity have on all of the following:

28 (A) Worker productivity and economic output.

29 (B) The health and welfare of children,  
30 including access to health care, housing, proper

1 nutrition and quality education.

2 (iv) Identifying Commonwealth programs, including  
3 those related to economic development, job creation, job  
4 training, the environment, disaster relief, hazard  
5 mitigation, extreme weather and climate change, in need  
6 of reform to better target resources to low-income,  
7 minority, rural, urban and other populations or  
8 geographic areas suffering from economic insecurity and  
9 disparate rates of poverty.

10 (v) Measuring the fiscal impact on the Commonwealth  
11 from successfully transitioning individuals and families  
12 from poverty to long-term economic stability. Fiscal  
13 impact measurements may include all of the following:

14 (A) Reductions in long-term costs of social  
15 safety net programs.

16 (B) Reductions in long-term health care costs by  
17 improving health of households formerly facing  
18 economic insecurity or poverty.

19 (C) Increases in State and local revenues  
20 attributable to new taxpaying individuals as a result  
21 of increased employment and disposable income.

22 (D) Reductions in enrollment and costs in need-  
23 based benefits and services programs.

24 (E) Improvements to the overall economy of this  
25 Commonwealth and reduced financial pressures on the  
26 State and local governments.

27 (2) To establish an ongoing system of data sharing,  
28 policy coordination and communication among and within  
29 Commonwealth agencies, local agencies and other organizations  
30 related to programs aimed at improving economic security and

1 eliminating poverty.

2 (3) To identify knowledge gaps, research needs and  
3 policy and program deficiencies associated with economic  
4 insecurity and poverty.

5 (4) To assist the commission in the development of the  
6 strategic plan, including sharing data and information  
7 identified under paragraphs (1) and (3) and analyses of that  
8 data and information.

9 (5) To implement the strategic plan adopted by the  
10 commission, including all of the following:

11 (i) Coordinating implementation of the strategic  
12 plan.

13 (ii) Advising and assisting relevant agencies in the  
14 implementation of the strategic plan.

15 (iii) Advising relevant agencies on specific  
16 programmatic and policy matters related to the strategic  
17 plan.

18 (iv) Providing relevant subject matter expertise to  
19 each agency for purposes of implementing the strategic  
20 plan.

21 (v) Identifying and addressing issues that may  
22 influence the future of the strategic plan.

23 Section 304. Report.

24 (a) Report.--No later than September 1 of each year, the  
25 workgroup shall issue a report that includes the following:

26 (1) A summary of actions taken and outcomes obtained by  
27 the workgroup in fulfilling its duties under section 303.

28 (2) Progress made on reducing poverty and economic  
29 insecurity in this Commonwealth, including policies or  
30 procedures implemented to reduce or eliminate the cycle of

1 poverty and intergenerational poverty as a result of the data  
2 collected by the workgroup.

3 (3) Relevant data assessing the scope and depth of  
4 intergenerational poverty in this Commonwealth.

5 (4) A 20-year history of poverty rates in this  
6 Commonwealth with a focus on any reduction or increase in the  
7 rates during the previous 10 years and since the inception of  
8 the workgroup.

9 (5) Any recommendations for legislative or regulatory  
10 action to adopt or repeal laws, policies or procedures to  
11 further the goal of eliminating poverty and economic  
12 insecurity in this Commonwealth.

13 (b) Distribution.--The workgroup shall distribute the report  
14 under subsection (a) as follows:

15 (1) To the Governor.

16 (2) To each member of the General Assembly.

17 (3) By prominently posting the report on the publicly  
18 accessible Internet website of all Commonwealth departments  
19 and agencies.

## 20 CHAPTER 5

### 21 POVERTY ELIMINATION AND

#### 22 ECONOMIC SECURITY STRATEGIC PLANNING

23 Section 501. The Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty Elimination  
24 and Economic Security.

25 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Commission on Poverty  
26 Elimination and Economic Security is established.

27 (b) Purpose.--The purpose of the commission is to:

28 (1) Inform the public policy making process by:

29 (i) Improving policymakers' understanding of the  
30 root causes of poverty and economic insecurity, including

1 contributing social, economic and cultural factors and  
2 the reasons that poverty and economic insecurity persist  
3 in this Commonwealth.

4 (ii) Expanding policymakers' understanding of  
5 poverty by distinguishing a standard that measures a  
6 level of freedom from deprivation from a standard that  
7 measures economic security provided by a living wage and  
8 access to a livable standard of living.

9 (iii) Educating policymakers on the impact poverty  
10 has on other measures of economic stability and economic  
11 outcomes, including educational attainment, rates of  
12 incarceration, lifetime earnings, access to health care,  
13 health care outcomes and access to housing.

14 (2) Support governmental efforts to ensure that  
15 residents of this Commonwealth have equal opportunity to  
16 achieve economic security.

17 (3) Reduce and ultimately eliminate poverty in this  
18 Commonwealth by making policy and other recommendations to  
19 the legislative, executive and judicial branches of this  
20 Commonwealth.

21 (c) Membership.--The commission shall be comprised of the  
22 following members:

23 (1) Four members of the General Assembly, one each  
24 appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, the  
25 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
26 Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of  
27 Representatives.

28 (2) A member of the judiciary or a designee who shall be  
29 appointed by the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme  
30 Court.

1           (3) Twenty members of the public appointed under  
2 subsection (d) representing stakeholders as follows:

3           (i) Two representatives, one of whom shall represent  
4 an organization that focuses on rural poverty and one of  
5 whom shall represent an organization that focuses on  
6 urban and suburban poverty.

7           (ii) Two individuals who have experienced deep  
8 poverty.

9           (iii) One representative of an organization that  
10 advocates for health care access, affordability and  
11 availability.

12           (iv) One representative of an organization that  
13 advocates for individuals with mental illness.

14           (v) One representative of an organization that  
15 advocates for children and youth.

16           (vi) One representative of an organization that  
17 advocates for equity and equality in education.

18           (vii) One representative of an organization that  
19 advocates for individuals who are homeless.

20           (viii) One representative of a Statewide antihunger  
21 organization.

22           (ix) One representative of an organization that  
23 advocates for military veterans.

24           (x) One representative of an organization that  
25 advocates for individuals with disabilities.

26           (xi) One representative of an organization that  
27 advocates for immigrants.

28           (xii) One representative of a Statewide faith-based  
29 organization that provides direct social services in this  
30 Commonwealth.

1 (xiii) One representative of an organization that  
2 advocates for economic security for women.

3 (xiv) One representative of an organization that  
4 advocates for older adults.

5 (xv) One representative of a labor organization that  
6 represents primarily low-wage and middle-wage earners.

7 (xvi) One representative of school districts in this  
8 Commonwealth.

9 (xvii) One representative of county governments in  
10 this Commonwealth.

11 (xviii) One representative of municipal corporation  
12 governments in this Commonwealth.

13 (4) The members of the workgroup shall serve as  
14 nonvoting ex officio members of the commission.

15 (d) Appointment.--The following shall apply:

16 (1) The public members of the commission under  
17 subsection (c) (3) shall be appointed as follows:

18 (i) Four shall be appointed by the Governor.

19 (ii) Four shall be appointed by the President pro  
20 tempore of the Senate.

21 (iii) Four shall be appointed by the Speaker of the  
22 House of Representatives.

23 (iv) Four shall be appointed by the Minority Leader  
24 of the Senate.

25 (v) Four shall be appointed by the Minority Leader  
26 of the House of Representatives.

27 (2) It shall be determined by lot which appointing  
28 authority appoints which public members to the commission.

29 (3) The appointed members shall reflect the racial,  
30 gender and geographic diversity of this Commonwealth and

1 shall include representation from regions of this  
2 Commonwealth experiencing economic insecurity and the highest  
3 rates of deep poverty.

4 (4) Public members of the commission shall be selected  
5 for service on the commission within 45 days of the effective  
6 date of this paragraph.

7 (e) Qualifications.--Each member of the commission must have  
8 been a resident of this Commonwealth for a period of at least  
9 one year immediately preceding appointment and must continue  
10 residence in this Commonwealth during the member's tenure of  
11 service on the commission.

12 (f) Organizational meeting.--The organizational meeting of  
13 the commission shall take place after all members are appointed  
14 but no later than 60 days after the effective date of this  
15 subsection.

16 (g) Compensation.--Members shall serve without compensation,  
17 but public members may be reimbursed for reasonable and  
18 necessary travel expenses connected to commission business.

19 (h) Commission chairperson.--The representatives of the  
20 antipoverty organizations appointed under subsection (c) (3) (i)  
21 shall serve as cochairs of the commission.

22 (i) Committees.--The commission may establish subcommittees  
23 to address specific issues or populations and may collaborate  
24 with individuals with relevant expertise who are not members of  
25 the commission to assist the subcommittee in carrying out its  
26 duties.

27 (j) Meetings.--The full commission shall meet at least once  
28 annually.

29 (k) Quorum.--A majority plus one of the voting members shall  
30 constitute a quorum.



1 (l) Voting.--All actions of the commission and any  
2 subcommittees established by the commission shall be approved by  
3 majority vote of the commission or subcommittee as applicable.

4 (m) Open meetings.--The meetings of the commission shall be  
5 conducted in accordance with the provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7  
6 (relating to open meetings).

7 (n) Administrative support.--The Department of Human  
8 Services shall provide staff and administrative support to  
9 assist the commission in carrying out its duties.

10 Section 502. Strategic plan to address poverty and economic  
11 insecurity.

12 (a) Plan required.--No later than November 30, 2024, the  
13 commission shall develop and adopt a strategic plan to address  
14 poverty and economic insecurity in this Commonwealth.

15 (b) Goals.--The goals of the strategic plan shall be to:

16 (1) Ensure that Commonwealth programs and services  
17 targeting poverty and economic insecurity reflect the goal of  
18 helping individuals and families rise above poverty and  
19 achieve long-term economic stability rather than simply  
20 providing relief from deprivation.

21 (2) Eliminate disparate rates of poverty, deep poverty,  
22 child poverty and intergenerational poverty based on race,  
23 ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation or identity,  
24 English language proficiency, ability and geographic location  
25 in a rural, urban or suburban area.

26 (3) Reduce deep poverty in this Commonwealth by 50% by  
27 2030.

28 (4) Eliminate child poverty in this Commonwealth by  
29 2035.

30 (5) Eliminate all poverty in this Commonwealth by 2040.

1 (c) Plan development.--In developing the strategic plan, the  
2 commission shall:

3 (1) Collaborate with the workgroup, including sharing  
4 data and information identified under section 303(a)(1) and  
5 (3) and analyses of that data and information.

6 (2) Review each program and service provided by the  
7 Commonwealth that targets poverty and economic insecurity for  
8 purposes of:

9 (i) determining which programs and services are the  
10 most effective and of the highest importance in reducing  
11 poverty and economic insecurity in this Commonwealth; and

12 (ii) providing an analysis of unmet needs, if any,  
13 among individuals, children and families in deep poverty  
14 and intergenerational poverty for each program and  
15 service identified under subparagraph (i).

16 (3) Study the feasibility of using public/private  
17 partnerships and social impact bonds, to improve innovation  
18 and cost-effectiveness in the development of programs and  
19 delivery of services that advance the goals of the strategic  
20 plan.

21 (4) Hold at least six public hearings in different  
22 geographic regions of this Commonwealth, including areas that  
23 have disparate rates of poverty and that have historically  
24 experienced economic insecurity, to collect information, take  
25 testimony and solicit input and feedback from interested  
26 parties, including members of the public who have personal  
27 experiences with Commonwealth programs and services targeting  
28 economic insecurity, poverty, deep poverty, child poverty and  
29 intergenerational poverty and make the information publicly  
30 available.

1           (5) Request and receive from a Commonwealth agency or  
2 local government agency information relating to poverty in  
3 this Commonwealth, including all of the following:

- 4           (i) Reports.
- 5           (ii) Audits.
- 6           (iii) Data.
- 7           (iv) Projections.
- 8           (v) Statistics.

9           (d) Subject areas.--The strategic plan shall address all of  
10 the following:

- 11           (1) Access to safe and affordable housing.
- 12           (2) Access to adequate food and nutrition.
- 13           (3) Access to affordable and quality health care.
- 14           (4) Equal access to quality education and training.
- 15           (5) Equal access to affordable, quality postsecondary  
16 education options.
- 17           (6) Dependable and affordable transportation.
- 18           (7) Access to quality and affordable child care.
- 19           (8) Opportunities to engage in meaningful and  
20 sustainable work that pays a living wage and barriers to  
21 those opportunities experienced by individuals living in  
22 poverty.
- 23           (9) Equal access to justice through a fair system of  
24 criminal justice that does not, in effect, criminalize  
25 poverty.
- 26           (10) Availability of adequate income supports.
- 27           (11) Retirement security.

28           (e) Plan content.--The strategic plan shall, at a minimum,  
29 contain policy and fiscal recommendations relating to all of the  
30 following:

1 (1) Developing fact-based measures to evaluate the long-  
2 term effectiveness of existing and proposed programs and  
3 services targeting poverty and economic insecurity.

4 (2) Increasing enrollment in programs and services  
5 targeting poverty and economic insecurity by reducing the  
6 complexity and difficulty of enrollment in order to maximize  
7 program effectiveness and increase positive outcomes.

8 (3) Increasing the reach of programs and services  
9 targeting poverty and economic insecurity by ensuring that  
10 Commonwealth agencies have adequate resources to maximize the  
11 public awareness of the programs and services, especially in  
12 historically disenfranchised communities.

13 (4) Reducing the negative impacts of asset limits for  
14 eligibility on the effectiveness of Commonwealth programs  
15 targeting poverty and economic insecurity by ensuring that  
16 eligibility limits do not:

17 (i) create gaps in necessary service and benefit  
18 delivery or restrict access to benefits as individuals  
19 and families attempt to transition off assistance  
20 programs; or

21 (ii) prevent beneficiaries from improving long-term  
22 outcomes and achieving long-term economic independence  
23 from the program.

24 (5) Improving the ability of community-based  
25 organizations to participate in the development and  
26 implementation of Commonwealth programs designed to address  
27 economic insecurity and poverty.

28 (6) Improving the ability of individuals living in  
29 poverty, low-income individuals and unemployed individuals to  
30 access critical job training and skills upgrade programs and

1 find quality jobs that help children and families become  
2 economically secure and rise above poverty.

3 (7) Improving communication and collaboration between  
4 Commonwealth agencies and local governments on programs  
5 targeting poverty and economic insecurity.

6 (8) Creating efficiencies in the administration and  
7 coordination of programs and services targeting poverty and  
8 economic insecurity.

9 (9) Connecting low-income children, disconnected youth  
10 and families of those children and youth to education, job  
11 training and jobs in the communities in which those children  
12 and youth live.

13 (10) Ensuring that the Commonwealth's services and  
14 benefits programs, emergency programs, discretionary economic  
15 programs and other policies are sufficiently funded to enable  
16 the Commonwealth to mount effective responses to economic  
17 downturns and increases in economic insecurity and poverty  
18 rates.

19 (11) Creating one or more Commonwealth poverty measures.

20 (12) Developing and implementing programs and policies  
21 that use the two-generation approach.

22 (13) Using public/private partnerships and social impact  
23 bonds to improve innovation and cost-effectiveness in the  
24 development of programs and delivery of services that advance  
25 the goals of the strategic plan.

26 (14) Identifying best practices for collecting data  
27 relevant to all of the following:

28 (i) Reducing economic insecurity and poverty.

29 (ii) Reducing the racial, ethnic, age, gender,

30 sexual orientation and sexual identity-based disparities

1 in the rates of economic insecurity and poverty.

2 (iii) Adequately measuring the effectiveness,  
3 efficiency and impact of programs on the outcomes for  
4 individuals, families and communities who receive  
5 benefits and services.

6 (iv) Streamlining enrollment and eligibility for  
7 programs.

8 (v) Improving long-term outcomes for individuals who  
9 are enrolled in service and benefit programs.

10 (vi) Reducing reliance on public programs.

11 (vii) Improving connections to work.

12 (viii) Improving economic security.

13 (ix) Improving retirement security.

14 (x) Improving the Commonwealth's understanding of  
15 the impact of extreme weather and natural disasters on  
16 economically vulnerable communities and improving those  
17 communities' resilience to and recovery from extreme  
18 weather and natural disasters.

19 (xi) Improving access to living-wage employment.

20 (xii) Improving access to employment-based benefits.

21 (f) Other information.--In addition to the plan content  
22 required under subsection (e), the strategic plan shall contain  
23 all of the following:

24 (1) A suggested timeline for the stages of  
25 implementation of the recommendations in the plan.

26 (2) Short-term, intermediate-term and long-term  
27 benchmarks to measure the Commonwealth's progress toward  
28 meeting the goals of the strategic plan.

29 (3) A summary of the review and analysis conducted by  
30 the commission under subsection (c) (1).

1 (g) Impact of recommendations.--For each recommendation in  
2 the plan, the commission shall identify in measurable terms the  
3 actual or potential impact that the recommendation will have on  
4 poverty and economic insecurity in this Commonwealth.

5 Section 503. Commission reports.

6 (a) Interim report.--No later than June 30, 2024, the  
7 commission shall issue an interim report on the commission's  
8 activities to the Governor and the General Assembly.

9 (b) Report on strategic plan.--Upon the commission's  
10 adoption of the strategic plan, but no later than November 30,  
11 2025, the commission shall issue a report containing a summary  
12 of the commission's activities and the contents of the strategic  
13 plan. The commission shall submit the report to the Governor and  
14 each member of the General Assembly.

15 (c) Annual reports.--Beginning November 30, 2026, and each  
16 year thereafter, the commission shall issue a report on the  
17 status of the implementation of the commission's strategic plan.  
18 The report may contain any other recommendations of the  
19 commission to address poverty and economic insecurity in this  
20 Commonwealth.

21 Section 504. Duties of Secretary of the Budget.

22 The Secretary of the Budget shall include in the materials  
23 submitted to the General Assembly outlining the Governor's  
24 proposed annual budget a description of any budget proposals or  
25 other activities, ongoing projects and plans of the executive  
26 branch designed to meet the goals and objectives of the  
27 strategic plan. The information shall include the following:

28 (1) An accounting of the savings to the Commonwealth  
29 from any increased efficiencies in the delivery of services.

30 (2) Any savings realized from reducing the number of

1 individuals living in poverty and reducing the demand for  
2 need-based services and benefits.

3 (3) A projection of any increase in revenue collections  
4 due to any increase in the number of individuals who become  
5 employed and pay taxes into the State Treasury.

6 (4) Any other information related to the proposed annual  
7 budget that the Secretary of the Budget believes furthers the  
8 goals and objectives of the strategic plan.

9 CHAPTER 7

10 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

11 Section 701. (Reserved).

12 Section 702. (Reserved).

13 Section 703. Effective date.

14 This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.