



Senate Aging & Youth Committee

Senator Randy Vulakovich, Chairman

Nathan Silcox, Executive Director • nsilcox@pasen.gov

Room 168 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120-3040 • 717-787-6538 • Fax: 717-787-8625
www.senatorvulakovich.com

Bill Summary

Bill Number: SR 62, P.N. 753

Prime Sponsor: McIlhinney

Prepared By: Nathan Silcox

Date: June 9, 2014

A. Synopsis

SR 62 would require the Legislative Budget & Finance Committee (LBFC) to assess current State practices that promote economic opportunity and poverty reduction and develop a strategic, integrated and comprehensive plan to mitigate the "Cliff Effect." The Cliff Effect is where working parents who receive a minor increase in income making them ineligible for various programs that allow them to work, such as child-care assistance, transportation, food stamps and free and reduced school lunches, face the "cliff" and disincentives for achieving self-sufficiency.

B. Summary of Legislation

SR 62 would require the Legislative Budget & Finance Committee (LBFC) to assess current State practices that promote economic opportunity and poverty reduction and develop a strategic, integrated and comprehensive plan to mitigate the "Cliff Effect."

LBFC would be required to consult with the Department of Public Welfare, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Revenue, the Department of Labor and Industry, the PA Housing Finance Agency, and recipients, advocates and providers with experience in job support and welfare-to-work programs.

LBFC would be required to make recommendations regarding:

1. Identifying best policies and practices that build family assets and financial stability.
2. Making work pay through the use of fair and sustainable targeted tax policies.
3. Expanding the work force with quality jobs that meet private sector needs.
4. Assessing work support issues such as child care, transportation, nutrition and housing needs of families.
5. Creating a coordinated effort among State agencies to develop policies on education, health care, housing, income, child care, nutrition and transportation that are consistent and create incentives for self-sufficiency.
6. Identifying those policies and regulations that conflict with the goal of self-sufficiency;

LBFC would have one year to issue its report and recommendation to the Senate.