

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2007 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-7-2007

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by The Chairman (by request – County Executive)

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Senior Assistance Program

3 For the purpose of establishing a Senior Assistance Program to assist senior citizens of the
4 County who are the head of household and County residents and who are in need of financial
5 assistance, establishing certain grant eligibility criteria, and generally relating to administration
6 of the Senior Assistance Program.

7 BY adding:

8 SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.

9 DIVISION 3A. SENIOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

10 Sections 2-115.01, 2-115.02, 2-115.03, 2-115.04,
11 2-115.05 and 2-115.06,

12 The Prince George's County Code
13 (2003 Edition, 2006 Supplement).

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
15 Maryland, that Sections 2-115.01, 2-115.02, 2-115.03, 2-115.04, 2-115.05 and 2-115.06 of the
16 Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby added:

17 **SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.**

18 **DIVISION 3A. SENIOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

19 **Sec. 2-115.01. Statement of Policy.**

20 It is declared to be the public policy of Prince George’s County, Maryland (the “County”)
21 to promote, respect and protect all of the County’s senior citizens through County policies and

1 County laws. Senior citizens are valued citizens and residents of the County including those
 2 senior citizens who are in need of financial assistance. There exists within the County senior
 3 citizens who are in need of assistance with living expenses. In order to assist senior citizens of
 4 the County who are the head of household and County residents, it is necessary that the County
 5 provide funding to make payment to eligible residents who are 65 years of age and older.

6 **Sec. 2-115.02. Senior Assistance Program.**

7 (a) There is hereby established a Senior Assistance Program. The Senior Assistance
 8 Program shall be administered by the Department of Family Services.

9 (b) Subject to a specific appropriation for the Senior Assistance Program, each fiscal year,
 10 funds in the County General Fund shall be made available to financially support senior citizens
 11 of the County. Senior Assistance Program funds shall be identified as Non-Departmental funds
 12 by the Office of Management and Budget.

13 (c) Each fiscal year, subject to appropriation, the Office of Management and Budget shall
 14 identify County General Funds in the Non-Departmental portion of the County Budget to
 15 provide funding for the Senior Assistance Program.

16 (d) Pursuant to the eligibility criteria set forth in this Division, an eligible person may
 17 receive a grant or grants during a fiscal year pursuant to the Senior Assistance Program in an
 18 amount not to exceed Five-Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) in total per fiscal year. During each fiscal
 19 year, subject to appropriation, grants to eligible persons will be allocated in chronological order
 20 based on the earliest date and time of the Department of Family Service's receipt of a grant
 21 application. In the event that funding for the Senior Assistance Program appropriated during a
 22 fiscal year becomes depleted, no additional funding for the Senior Assistance Program will be
 23 available for that fiscal year.

24 **Sec. 2-115.03. Definitions.**

25 As used in this Division:

26 (a) **County** shall mean Prince George's County, Maryland.

27 (b) **Head of Household** means the person that holds the deed, title, lease, or other property
 28 ownership interest on a property, it is their main residence and they are legally responsible for
 29 the rent, mortgage, or ownership fees.

30 (c) **Household Income** is identified as all combined gross household income before
 31 deductions. This includes income from all sources including Social Security as well as all other

1 retirement benefits.

2 (d) **Resident** means a person who has been a County resident for at least one year.

3 (e) **Senior Citizen** means a person who is 65 years of age and older.

4 **Sec. 2-115.04. Eligibility.**

5 (a) To be deemed eligible for the Senior Assistance Program, a person shall meet the
6 following criteria:

7 (1) Be a head of household as defined in Section 2-115.03 of this Division;

8 (2) Be 65 years of age or older;

9 (3) Have a household income of less than \$35,000 per year; and

10 (4) Be a resident of Prince George's County, Maryland for at least one year.

11 (b) In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria set forth in Section 2-115.04 (a), to be
12 deemed eligible for the Senior Assistance Program, a person shall provide the Department of
13 Family Services statement of need for one or more of the following:

14 (1) housing;

15 (2) utilities;

16 (3) food; and

17 (4) medical expenses.

18 **Sec. 2-115.05. Disbursement of Funds.**

19 (a) The Office of Finance shall administer the disbursement of funds for the Senior
20 Assistance Program.

21 (b) There will be one or more checks issued per household to the person or persons
22 deemed eligible pursuant to the criteria as set forth pursuant to this Division. In the event there
23 is more than one person deemed a head of household, the disbursement or disbursements shall be
24 made jointly.

25 **Sec. 2-115.06. Senior Assistance Program Review.**

26 The Department of Family Services and the Office of Management and Budget will
27 evaluate the program after six months of its inception to review and determine the success of the
28 Senior Assistance Program.

29 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
30 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2007.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Camille A. Exum
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Jack B. Johnson
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.