

## S 1660

Grandfamilies Act of 2019

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Families

**Introduced:** May 23, 2019

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (May 23, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1660>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 23, 2019
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		May 23, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 23, 2019
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		May 23, 2019
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Sep 9, 2019
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Dec 4, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Dec 11, 2019

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 23, 2019

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Families

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2967	Related bill	<b>May 24, 2019:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## **Grandfamilies Act of 2019**

This bill expands access to specified programs for children living with grandparents or other family members who are not their legal guardian. Specifically, the bill provides that a child of a relative eligible for Old-Age and Survivors Insurance benefits is eligible for such benefit payments if that child (1) began living with such relative before age 18, (2) receives at least 50% of their support from such relative, and (3) has lived with such relative pursuant to a court order for at least 12 months.

Additionally, the bill revises the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligibility requirements for children living with specified caretaker relatives. First, the bill lessens the requirement for TANF applicants to assign their rights to child support when such assignment may impact the likelihood of reunifying the child with their noncustodial parent, such as where the noncustodial parent is working to gain financial stability so they may reunify with their child. Further, when a child, but not the caretaker relative, receives TANF benefits (i.e., child-only cases), or if the caretaker relative is 55 or older, the bill (1) excludes such caretaker's income from that child's eligibility determination, (2) removes the 5-year cap on assistance, and (3) exempts such caretaker relatives from TANF work requirements.

The bill also (1) encourages states to enact temporary guardianship laws, (2) establishes the National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies, and (3) provides grants supporting caretaker relatives.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 23, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 23, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.