

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1344 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY HARKINS, B. BOYLE, THOMAS, KORTZ, SANTARSIERO,
BIZZARRO, YOUNGBLOOD, O'BRIEN, BROWNLEE, KINSEY, COHEN,
MAHONEY, PASHINSKI, V. BROWN, PARKER, FABRIZIO AND KIM,
MAY 8, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 8, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," further providing for kindergartens
6 and for the definition of "compulsory school age."

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

9 Section 1. Section 503 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
10 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, amended
11 September 21, 1959 (P.L.925, No.373) and October 21, 1965
12 (P.L.601, No.312), is amended to read:

13 Section 503. Kindergartens.--(a) The board of school
14 directors in [any school district may] all school districts
15 shall establish and maintain kindergartens [for children between
16 the ages of four and six years. When established, the]. A
17 district may establish an age policy but may not deny
18 kindergarten to any child who is five years of age or older on
19 the first day of the school year. The kindergartens shall be an

1 integral part of the elementary school system of the district,
2 and be kept open for not less than two and one-half hours each
3 day for the full school term as provided in section 1501.

4 (b) The number of kindergartens in any one district shall be
5 fixed by the board of school directors, and shall be open during
6 the school year. Kindergartens shall be available to all
7 children in residence of the school district who are of the age
8 fixed by the board of school directors pursuant to subsection
9 (a) of this section.

10 [If the average attendance in any one kindergarten in any
11 district is ten or less for the school year, the school
12 directors shall, at the close of the school year, discontinue
13 the same.]

14 (c) The board of school directors shall appoint and assign a
15 sufficient number of teachers to such kindergartens, who shall
16 be certified in accordance with the rules and regulations
17 prescribed by the [Council of Basic Education.] State Board of
18 Education.

19 (d) One hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) collected by
20 the Department of Revenue each fiscal year pursuant to Article
21 II of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the "Tax
22 Reform Code of 1971," shall annually be transferred to a special
23 fund within the State Treasury, which fund is hereby
24 established. The monies of the fund are hereby appropriated on a
25 continuing basis to the Department of Education for the purpose
26 of providing grants to school districts under this section. The
27 amounts awarded to school districts under this subsection shall
28 be in addition to any other amount annually appropriated for the
29 purposes of providing kindergarten and other early childhood
30 education programs in school districts, including, but not

1 limited to, accountability grants established under section
2 2599.2.

3 Section 2. Section 1326 of the act is amended to read:

4 Section 1326. Definitions.--The term "compulsory school
5 age," as hereinafter used, shall mean the period of a child's
6 life from the time the child's parents elect to have the child
7 enter school, which shall be not later than at the age of [eight
8 (8)] six (6) years, until the age of seventeen (17) years. The
9 term shall not include any child who holds a certificate of
10 graduation from a regularly accredited senior high school.

11 The term "migratory child," wherever used in this subdivision
12 of this article, shall include any child domiciled temporarily
13 in any school district for the purpose of seasonal employment,
14 but not acquiring residence therein, and any child accompanying
15 his parent or guardian who is so domiciled.

16 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.