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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 883

Session of  
1975

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INTRODUCED BY DeMEDIO, ZELLER, MRKONIC, SHUMAN, DOMBROWSKI,  
HOPKINS, COLE, LYNCH, PETRARCA, SALVATORE, KATZ, PYLES,  
M. M. MULLEN, CIMINI, NOVAK, MISCEVICH, GILLESPIE, LAUDADIO,  
A. K. HUTCHINSON, STOUT AND BELLOMINI, MARCH 20, 1975

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS, MARCH 20, 1975

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AN ACT

1 Providing plans for the encouragement of certain Vietnam  
2 veterans to return to school to complete their secondary  
3 education; imposing certain duties on the Department of  
4 Education and each of the school districts of the  
5 Commonwealth and making an appropriation.

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

8 Section 1. Findings and Declaration of Policy.--(a) Draft  
9 policies during the Vietnam era resulted in large numbers of men  
10 who had not finished their high school education being inducted  
11 into the armed forces. Many of these men are still educationally  
12 unqualified for responsible jobs or for higher education.

13 (b) The Vietnam G.I. Bill of Rights provides aid for these  
14 men to attend secondary schools, but few of them have taken  
15 advantage of the opportunity. This is at least partly due to the  
16 lack of effort to seek out these veterans and to counsel them to  
17 return to school. There also is a natural reluctance on the part  
18 of many veterans to return to high school classes composed of

1 younger students.

2 (c) The General Assembly therefore declares it to be the  
3 policy of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide secondary  
4 education for as many of these veterans as possible.

5 (d) In furtherance of this policy of the Department of  
6 Education and each of the school districts of the Commonwealth  
7 are directed to enlarge and extend their efforts to encourage  
8 these veterans to return to school by using such programs as  
9 "outreach" and also by providing special classes both night and  
10 day, in areas in which there are sufficient veterans to form  
11 such classes.

12 Section 2. Definition.--For purposes of this act, "qualified  
13 veteran" means any veteran who:

14 (1) Served on active duty for a period of more than one  
15 hundred eighty days and part of which was accrued after August  
16 5, 1964, and who was discharged or released therefrom under  
17 conditions other than dishonorable; and

18 (2) Was a resident of Pennsylvania for at least one year  
19 immediately preceding his service on active duty, has continued  
20 to reside in Pennsylvania following his discharge or release  
21 from active duty and continues to reside in Pennsylvania during  
22 the period in which he is enrolled in refresher courses or  
23 deficiency courses in the case of any veteran who has not  
24 received a secondary school diploma (or an equivalent) at the  
25 time of his discharge from active duty, or who is enrolled for  
26 additional secondary school training to qualify for admission to  
27 a program of post-secondary education at a post-secondary  
28 institution, or to obtain a secondary school diploma to meet  
29 requirements for employment.

30 Section 3. Duties of the Department of Education.--It shall

1 be the duty of the Department of Education to formulate plans  
2 designed to reach as many qualified veterans as possible who did  
3 not finish high school. Further, the Department of Education  
4 shall coordinate any such plans with the local school districts  
5 and shall furnish such school districts with any brochures,  
6 educational material and similar aids developed to help such  
7 school districts carry out the policy enunciated in section one  
8 of this act.

9 Section 4. Duties of Local School Districts.--Each local  
10 school district shall cooperate with the Department of Education  
11 in the furtherance of plans developed by the Department of  
12 Education pursuant to section 3. Further, each local school  
13 district shall prepare plans for the secondary education of  
14 qualified veterans residing within such districts. Such plans  
15 shall be forwarded to the Department of Education for approval.

16 Section 5. Reimbursement.--(a) Whenever the plan of a local  
17 school district for the education of qualified veterans requires  
18 special classes, either night or day to be held for such  
19 veterans and such plan has been approved by the Department of  
20 Education, such school district shall be reimbursed by the  
21 Commonwealth one hundred per cent of the sum which was expended  
22 by the district for the compensation of teachers and supervisors  
23 employed for such special classes. For the purpose of computing  
24 reimbursement, the maximum compensation shall be \$5.00 per hour  
25 and the amount expended for supervisory salaries shall not  
26 exceed 20% of the sum expended for teachers' salaries: Provided,  
27 That in special cases when travel time or unusual preparation of  
28 instructional materials or other factors result in an inadequate  
29 compensation, the Department of Education may approve additional  
30 reimbursable employment time for such additional services upon

1 the submission of adequate substantive evidence from the  
2 responsible superintendent of schools. In addition, such school  
3 district shall be reimbursed for the cost of any books, supplies  
4 and educational aids used exclusively for such special classes.

5 (b) The amount due each school district shall be divided  
6 into quarterly installments and the Secretary of Education shall  
7 draw his requisition quarterly upon the State Treasurer in favor  
8 of each district for the amount to which it is entitled. The  
9 first three quarterly payments shall be estimates based on but  
10 not to exceed twenty-five per cent each of the estimated total  
11 cost of the approved plan. The final quarterly payment shall be  
12 the balance of the actual allowable cost to such school  
13 district. Payment thereof shall be made to all school districts  
14 during the months of August, November, February and May of each  
15 year.

16 Section 6. Federal Funds.--The Department of Education is  
17 hereby designated the authorized agency of the Commonwealth to  
18 receive and disburse any Federal Funds available for any of the  
19 purposes of this act.

20 Section 7. Appropriation.--The sum of \$50,000 or as much  
21 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the  
22 Department of Education for use in carrying out the purposes of  
23 this act.

24 Section 8. Effective Date.--This act shall take effect  
25 immediately.