

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 883

Session of
1975

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. DeMEDIO, ZELLER, MRKONIC, SHUMAN,
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1975

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 2, 1975

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

1 of many veterans to return to high school classes composed of
2 younger students.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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