

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 999

Session of
1985

INTRODUCED BY E. Z. TAYLOR, GALLAGHER, IRVIS, ARTY, WASS,
HERSHEY, FOX, GREENWOOD, HAGARTY, MORRIS, JOSEPHS, MARKOSEK,
TRELLO, BELFANTI, HALUSKA, SEMMEL, KUKOVICH, AFFLERBACH,
PETRONE, BUSH, HARPER, BURNS, LINTON, DURHAM, WESTON,
JOHNSON, SAURMAN, TIGUE, RUDY, WOGAN, LASHINGER, FREIND,
SIRIANNI, BALDWIN, OLASZ, GEIST, GANNON, NAHILL, COY,
LIVENGOOD, COLAFELLA, PITTS, REBER, NOYE AND BARBER,
APRIL 22, 1985

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 22, 1985

AN ACT

1 Providing for the creation of a Statewide program to support and
2 guide public and private schools in this Commonwealth in the
3 establishment of extended school day care programs for
4 latchkey children; defining eligibility; further providing
5 for the powers and duties of the Department of Education; and
6 making an appropriation.

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

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Latchkey
11 Children Assistance Act.

12 Section 2. Legislative intent.

13 (a) Findings.--The General Assembly hereby finds and
14 declares that there are 6,500,000 latchkey children across the
15 country. These children are left unattended and unsupervised and
16 face danger of physical harm, sexual exploitation, emotional
17 distress and developmental deficiencies.

1 (b) Purpose.--The purpose of this act is to encourage and
2 support child care services for latchkey children in public and
3 private schools for the time period before and after the school
4 day.

5 Section 3. Definitions.

6 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
7 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
8 context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 "Department." The Department of Education of the
10 Commonwealth.

11 "Latchkey child." A child 12 years of age or under who
12 attends a private or public school in this Commonwealth and who
13 meets one of the following criteria:

14 (1) Resides with two parents, both employed on a full-
15 time basis with daily work hours extending beyond the hours
16 of the average school day.

17 (2) Resides with one parent, employed on a full-time
18 basis with daily work hours extending beyond the hours of the
19 average school day.

20 (3) Resides with one or two parents whose activities,
21 necessary for the child's care, prevent them from attending
22 to the child for a period before or after school, or both.

23 Section 4. Eligibility.

24 All latchkey children in this Commonwealth shall be eligible
25 for extended school day care programs as provided by this act.

26 Section 5. Powers and duties of department.

27 (a) Provide funds.--The department shall provide funds to
28 all public and private schools in this Commonwealth which
29 request funding for the establishment of an extended school day
30 care program.

(b) Monitor programs.--The department shall monitor all extended school day care programs to ensure that they meet standards consistent with those established by regulation.

(c) Annual evaluation.--The department shall evaluate extended school day care programs in this Commonwealth once each fiscal year to determine participation in programs.

(d) Regulations.--The department shall have the power to establish and promulgate only the rules and regulations that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act. It shall adhere to the rules and regulations of the Department of Public Welfare which relate to the provision of day care services.

Section 6. Use of funds.

Public and private schools in this Commonwealth may use funds for extended school day care programs in the following manner:

(1) To hire additional or pay existing school personnel to supervise or otherwise operate before and after school child care programs on school property.

(2) To contract the services of an outside child care organization that meets standards of the Department of Public Welfare to provide before and after school child care programs on school property.

(3) To purchase the materials necessary for the operation of a child care program and consistent with standards of the Department of Public Welfare.

Section 7. Appropriation.

The sum of \$5,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Education to carry out the provisions of this act. These funds shall be deemed to be in addition to, and not a replacement of, any funding sources currently being utilized by the department and the public and private schools to fund

- 1 extended school day care programs.
- 2 Section 8. Effective date.
- 3 This act shall take effect in 60 days.