
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1693

Session of
1985

INTRODUCED BY COWELL, O'DONNELL, CAWLEY, TRELLO, COHEN, TIGUE,
HALUSKA, VROON, ITKIN, LIVENGOD, JOHNSON, STABACK, BLAUM,
BELFANTI, PISTELLA, BATTISTO, DeLUCA, MICHLOVIC, NAHILL,
ARTY, E. Z. TAYLOR, PRESTON, WOZNIAK, COLAFELLA AND FISCHER,
OCTOBER 1, 1985

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 1, 1985

AN ACT

1 Designating the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf,
2 Allegheny County, the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf,
3 Philadelphia County, and the Scranton State School for the
4 Deaf, Lackawanna County, as regional resource centers for
5 hearing impairment.

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

8 Section 1. Definitions.

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

12 "Hearing impairment." Any hearing disability ranging in
13 severity from mild to profound, including those conditions
14 commonly referred to as "deaf" and "hard-of-hearing."

15 Section 2. Centers designated.

16 The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Allegheny
17 County, the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Philadelphia
18 County, and the Scranton State School for the Deaf, Lackawanna

1 County, are hereby designated as regional resource centers for
2 hearing-impaired children and adults.

3 Section 3. Services for the deaf.

4 These centers shall, when feasible, within the constraints of
5 available funds, continue to offer or expand to provide the
6 following services:

7 (1) Comprehensive educational services to hearing-
8 impaired and multihandicapped hearing-impaired children and
9 adults at the infant, preschool, elementary, secondary and
10 postsecondary levels.

11 (2) Assessment, counseling and referral service to
12 hearing-impaired children and adults.

13 (3) Information for deaf and other hearing-impaired
14 persons and their families, on services offered locally and
15 elsewhere.

16 (4) Expanded adult and continuing educational
17 opportunities for hearing-impaired persons.

18 (5) A deaf awareness community education program,
19 including training in communication techniques.

20 (6) An education and counseling program for parents of
21 deaf infants, to encourage optimum communication and language
22 development as preparation for school-age programming.

23 (7) Diagnostic vocational assessment, career awareness
24 and job-readiness skills for hearing-impaired persons; and
25 assistance to other agencies in facilitating the transition
26 of hearing-impaired persons into the job market.

27 (8) Research and demonstration programs in the area of
28 hearing impairment.

29 (9) Technical assistance to intermediate units, school
30 districts and other agencies.

1 (10) Professional training, demonstration and
2 dissemination services for professionals and community
3 members working with hearing-impaired persons.

4 (11) An assurance of the availability of services which
5 will enable hearing-impaired persons to become self-
6 sufficient and productive citizens of the community.

7 (12) An assurance that all the services above will be
8 available to hearing-impaired persons regardless of income,
9 age or employability.

10 Section 4. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.