

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 268 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY O'PAKE, STOUT, KITCHEN, LAVALLE, MUSTO,
TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, ORIE AND BOSCOLA, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," reducing the caseload of
4 county children and youth services caseworkers; authorizing
5 staff increases commensurate with workload responsibilities;
6 and establishing minimum education and training requirements.

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

9 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
10 as the Public Welfare Code, is amended by adding sections to
11 read:

12 Section 709.5. Caseload Requirements.--(a) To investigate
13 child abuse and child neglect reports and to carry out case
14 management functions required under 55 Pa. Code § 3130.31
15 (relating to responsibilities of the county agency), the
16 nonprobationary caseworker-to-client family ratio may average no
17 greater than 1 to 20; not more than ten of which can be high
18 risk as determined by the PA Risk Assessment Model.

19 (b) Average ratios exceeding twenty families for three

1 consecutive months shall authorize the county agency to employ
2 additional caseworkers such that the additional staff will bring
3 the county agency into compliance with approved/certified
4 department allocations notwithstanding, the department shall
5 participate in reimbursement of these positions at a rate of
6 eighty percent of the costs of salaries, benefits and related
7 expenses for any county that exceeds State-approved levels.

8 (c) Any county underexpending State-approved levels shall be
9 permitted to reallocate those funds to facilitate compliance
10 with this act.

11 Section 709.6. Minimum Education and Training
12 Requirements.--All caseworkers and supervisors shall meet
13 minimum education and skill requirements set by the department
14 upon the commencement of employment; thereafter, all caseworkers
15 and supervisors shall meet annual requirements of not less than
16 7.5 hours nor more than 15 hours of formalized training in areas
17 and topics approved by the department. Any person who fails to
18 meet these requirements shall not be employed in a supervisory
19 or investigative capacity within the provisions of this act
20 until that person comes into compliance with the provisions. The
21 department initially shall promulgate regulations to effectuate
22 the provisions of these requirements not later than 18 months
23 after the effective date of this section.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.