

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1090 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY CURRY, BURNS, CARROLL, FRANKEL, KESSLER, KORTZ, KULA, MAHONEY, MUNDY, M. O'BRIEN, PASHINSKI, PAYTON, REICHLEY, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, VULAKOVICH, WAGNER, WILLIAMS AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 24, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 24, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in intermediate units, providing for  
6 school social work services; and, in professional employees,  
7 further providing for definitions.

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

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
12 section to read:

13 Section 923.3-A. School Social Work Services.--(a)  
14 Intermediate units or school districts may offer a program of  
15 school social work services as part of the offering of pupil  
16 personnel services.

17 (b) Definitions. As used in this section:

18 "School social worker" shall mean a certified employe who  
19 provides social work services and support to students and their

families and who holds a license in good standing as a licensed social worker or a licensed clinical social worker under the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the "Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act."

"School social work services" shall mean social work services provided in the setting of an educational agency by a school social worker. The term includes:

(1) Prevention and intervention services. This paragraph includes strengthening school systems and fostering healthy climates.

(2) Assessments. This paragraph includes special education evaluations, functional behavior, manifestation determinations, behavior interventions and mental health recommendations.

(3) Counseling services. This paragraph includes individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling and alcohol and drug counseling.

(4) Consultation. This paragraph includes classroom observations, teacher consultations, case conferences and consultation with administration on program needs.

(5) Parent and community liaison. This paragraph includes home-school-community liaison, engaging community in student success and home visits.

(6) Violence reduction. This paragraph includes child abuse recognition and reporting, crisis intervention, peer mediation, anger management and bully proofing.

(7) Referrals and collaboration. This paragraph includes linking students to community resources and collaborating with outside agencies.

(8) Assuring compliance with Federal mandates.

(9) School involvement. This paragraph includes classroom

1 presentations, school-wide assembly presentations and  
2 participation in school committees.

3 (10) Training. This paragraph includes social skills,  
4 parenting skills, staff in-service and parent-teacher  
5 organization training.

6 Section 2. Section 1101 of the act, amended November 30,  
7 1971 (P.L.546, No.144), is amended to read:

8 Section 1101. Definitions.--As used in this article,

9 (1) The term "professional employe" shall include those who  
10 are certificated as teachers, supervisors, supervising  
11 principals, principals, assistant principals, vice-principals,  
12 directors of vocational education, dental hygienists, visiting  
13 teachers, home and school visitors, school social workers,  
14 school counselors, child nutrition program specialists, school  
15 librarians, school secretaries the selection of whom is on the  
16 basis of merit as determined by eligibility lists and school  
17 nurses.

18 (2) The term "substitute" shall mean any individual who has  
19 been employed to perform the duties of a regular professional  
20 employe during such period of time as the regular professional  
21 employe is absent on sabbatical leave or for other legal cause  
22 authorized and approved by the board of school directors or to  
23 perform the duties of a temporary professional employe who is  
24 absent.

25 (3) The term "temporary professional employe" shall mean any  
26 individual who has been employed to perform, for a limited time,  
27 the duties of a newly created position or of a regular  
28 professional employe whose services have been terminated by  
29 death, resignation, suspension or removal.

30 (4) The term "school social worker" shall have the meaning

1 given in section 923.3-A(b).

2       Section 3.   This act shall take effect in 60 days.