
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1269 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK, TEPLITZ, COSTA, FONTANA,
VULAKOVICH, GREENLEAF, SABATINA, BREWSTER, RAFFERTY, BLAKE,
YUDICHAK, MENSCH, BOSCOLA, VOGEL AND AUMENT, MAY 18, 2016

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, MAY 18, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 19, 1990 (P.L.1372, No.212),
2 entitled "An act providing for early intervention services
3 for infants, toddlers and preschool children who qualify;
4 establishing the Interagency Coordinating Council and
5 providing for its powers and duties; and conferring powers
6 and duties upon the Department of Education and the State
7 Board of Education, the Department of Health and the
8 Department of Public Welfare," in general provisions, further
9 providing for definitions; and, in Statewide system for
10 provision of early intervention services, further providing
11 for child identification, assessment and tracking system.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Section 103 of the act of December 19, 1990
15 (P.L.1372, No.212), known as the Early Intervention Services
16 System Act, is amended to read:

17 Section 103. Definitions.

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

21 * * *

22 "Postpartum depression." A major depressive episode with an

1 onset in pregnancy or within one year of the birth of a child.

2 * * *

3 Section 2. Section 305 of the act, amended October 14, 2014
4 (P.L.2500, No.143), is amended to read:

5 Section 305. Child identification, assessment and tracking
6 system.

7 (a) Development of system.--The Department of [Public
8 Welfare] Human Services, the Department of Education and the
9 Department of Health shall develop a Statewide system for
10 eligible child identification, assessment and tracking. This
11 system shall be developed and coordinated by the agencies to
12 assure that the system is compatible with the child-find system
13 as required by Part B.

14 (b) At-risk children.--For the purposes of child
15 identification, assessment and tracking for infants and
16 toddlers, the Department of [Public Welfare] Human Services
17 shall establish, by regulation, population groups to be included
18 in these activities. The population groups shall include, but
19 not be limited to, children whose birth weight is under 1,500
20 grams; children cared for in neonatal intensive care units of
21 hospitals; children born to chemically dependent mothers and
22 referred by a physician, health care provider or parent;
23 children who are seriously abused or neglected, as substantiated
24 and referred by the county children and youth agency under the
25 act of November 26, 1975 (P.L.438, No.124), known as the Child
26 Protective Services Law; children with confirmed dangerous
27 levels of lead poisoning as set by the Department of Health;
28 [and] children who are homeless[.]; and children who have a
29 parent that is either at high risk for or is diagnosed as having
30 postpartum depression and who are referred to the Department of

1 Human Services by a physician, health care provider or parent.

2 The Department of [Public Welfare] Human Services may establish
3 other population groups by regulation as it deems necessary.

4 (c) Components of system.--The system shall include, but
5 need not be limited to, the provision of the following
6 activities and services:

7 (1) The identification of eligible children and referral
8 to early intervention services as soon after birth as
9 possible.

10 (2) Referral services for families of eligible children.

11 (3) Continuing assessment of at-risk children from birth
12 through age of beginners.

13 (4) A description of agencies providing early
14 intervention services and the services provided by each
15 agency.

16 (5) Pertinent information regarding the exit of the
17 child from early intervention services.

18 (6) The orderly transfer of the accumulated information
19 to the appropriate provider upon the child's attainment of
20 age of beginners, except if the child has met exit criteria
21 contained in this act.

22 (d) Confidentiality.--Proper measures shall be developed and
23 implemented to assure the confidentiality of the data contained
24 in the system. Information shall be accessed only by appropriate
25 staff of the Department of [Public Welfare] Human Services, the
26 Department of Education and the Department of Health, including
27 the staff of each agency's local entities, such as county mental
28 health and mental retardation offices, school districts and
29 intermediate units, which are responsible for the provision of
30 services either directly or through subcontract to private

1 providers. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude the
2 utilization of data to provide for the preparation of reports,
3 fiscal information or other documents required by this act or
4 the Education of the Handicapped Act; but no information may be
5 used in a manner which would allow for the identification of an
6 individual child or family.

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