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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 1985** Session of  
1984

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INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, GALLAGHER, D. R. WRIGHT, GEIST AND  
PHILLIPS, MARCH 19, 1984

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 19, 1984

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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," limiting the power of local school  
6 boards over the admission of students on the basis of age.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1304 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,  
10 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, amended January  
11 14, 1970 (1969 P.L.468, No.192), is amended to read:

12 Section 1304. Admission of Beginners.--(a) The admission of  
13 beginners to the public schools shall be confined to the first  
14 two weeks of the annual school term in districts operating on an  
15 annual promotion basis, and to the first two weeks of either the  
16 first or the second semester of the school term in districts  
17 operating on a semi-annual promotion basis. Admission shall be  
18 limited to beginners who have attained the age of five years and  
19 seven months before the first day of September if they are to be

1 admitted in the fall, and to those who have attained the age of  
2 five years and seven months before the first day of February if  
3 they are to be admitted at the beginning of the second semester.  
4 The board of school directors of any school district may admit  
5 beginners who are less than five years and seven months of age,  
6 in accordance with standards prescribed by the State Board of  
7 Education. The board of school directors of any school district  
8 shall admit beginners who have completed the kindergarten level  
9 or its equivalent in another state. The board of school  
10 directors may refuse to accept or retain beginners who have not  
11 attained a mental age of five years, as determined by the  
12 supervisor of special education or a properly certificated  
13 public school psychologist in accordance with standards  
14 prescribed by the State Board of Education. No board of school  
15 directors of any school district may refuse to accept or retain  
16 beginners for any other reason.

17 (b) The term "beginners," as used in this section, shall  
18 mean any child that should enter the lowest grade of the primary  
19 school or the lowest primary class above the kindergarten level.

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