

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 2051 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY VEON, BLAUM, MUNDY, BELARDI, GORDNER, READSHAW,
DeWEESE, BUXTON, THOMAS, JAROLIN, BELFANTI, STURLA, TRELLO,
LAUGHLIN, PLATTS, WALKO, BEBKO-JONES, VAN HORNE, ITKIN,
JOSEPHS, ROONEY, LaGROTTA, YOUNGBLOOD, LEVDANSKY, TIGUE,
TRICH, MANDERINO, DeLUCA, SHANER, STABACK, STETLER, M. COHEN,
RAMOS, GEORGE AND BOSCOLA, OCTOBER 3, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND YOUTH, OCTOBER 3, 1995

AN ACT

1 Providing for a consumer guide to early childhood development
2 services and child day care.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Consumer
7 Guide to Child Day Care and Development Act.

8 Section 2. 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 "Child day care." Care in lieu of parental care given for
13 part of the 24-hour day to a child under 16 years of age, away
14 from the child's home. The term includes:

15 (1) Child day-care centers.

16 (2) Family child day-care homes.

1 (3) Group child day-care homes.

2 (4) School-age child day care.

3 (5) Subsidized child day care.

4 (6) Resource and referral programs which assist parents
5 in learning about the availability and appropriateness of
6 such care.

7 The term does not include child day care furnished in places of
8 worship during religious services.

9 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare of the
10 Commonwealth.

11 "Early childhood development services." Services which are
12 intended to provide an environment that enhances the
13 educational, social, cultural, emotional and recreational
14 development of a child from birth through eight years of age but
15 which are not intended to serve as a substitute for compulsory
16 academic programs. The term includes:

17 (1) Head Start.

18 (2) Early intervention programs.

19 (3) Nursery schools.

20 (4) Family centers.

21 (5) Resource and referral programs which assist parents
22 in learning about the availability and appropriateness of
23 such services.

24 Section 3. Consumer guide.

25 (a) Establishment.--The department, in conjunction with the
26 Department of Education and the Department of Health, shall
27 arrange for the preparation and distribution of a consumer guide
28 to early childhood development programs and child day-care
29 services in this Commonwealth.

30 (b) Contents.--The consumer guide shall include the

1 following information:

2 (1) A brief description of the types of child day care
3 and early childhood development services, and eligibility
4 criteria associated with the programs and services.

5 (2) On a county basis, any of the following:

6 (i) The name, address and telephone number of
7 providers of child day care and early childhood
8 development services.

9 (ii) The name, address and telephone number of
10 public or private agencies which can provide consumers
11 with the information required by subparagraph (i).

12 (3) A checklist of questions and issues for parents to
13 consider in choosing child day care or early childhood
14 development services. This paragraph requires, at a minimum,
15 conditions related to developmentally appropriate activities
16 and materials, staff supervision and interaction with
17 children, health and safety considerations in the program,
18 physical environment, hours of operation and fees and parent
19 participation.

20 (4) A toll-free number for information regarding the
21 status of a license, certificate of compliance or
22 registration certificate for a provider identified in the
23 consumer guide.

24 Section 4. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect in 180 days.