

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

**SENATE BILL****No. 171** Session of  
2007

---

INTRODUCED BY MUSTO, MELLOW, ORIE, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, KASUNIC,  
COSTA, KITCHEN, ERICKSON, RAFFERTY, STOUT, O'PAKE, LAVALLE,  
GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE, WASHINGTON, STACK, RHOADES, LOGAN,  
BAKER AND BROWNE, MARCH 6, 2007

---

---

SENATOR VANCE, AGING AND YOUTH, AS AMENDED, JUNE 12, 2007

---

## AN ACT

1 Establishing the Grandparent Caregiver Support Program.

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

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Grandparent  
6 Caregiver Support Program Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
9 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
10 context clearly indicated otherwise:

11 "Child." A person who is 18 years of age or younger and is  
12 not an emancipated minor.

13 "Department." The Department of Aging of the Commonwealth.

14 "Grandparent or older adult relative caregiver." A  
15 grandparent or step-grandparent of a child or a relative of a  
16 child by blood or marriage who meets all of the following:

- 1 (1) Is 50 years of age or older.
- 2 (2) Lives with the child.
- 3 (3) Provides primary care for the child. ~~because~~ <—  
4 ~~the biological or adoptive parents are unwilling or unable to~~  
5 ~~serve as the primary caregiver of the child.~~
- 6 (4) Is the legal guardian or is raising the child
- 7 informally BECAUSE THE BIOLOGICAL OR ADOPTIVE PARENTS ARE <—  
8 UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO SERVE AS THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER OF THE  
9 CHILD.

10 Section 3. Legislative intent.

11 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

- 12 (1) There is a growing population of children who are
- 13 ~~being abandoned by their parents and are being raised by~~ <—  
14 ~~grandparents or OTHER older adult relative caregivers.~~ <—
- 15 (2) This reversal in roles has created a population of
- 16 grandparents who are unprepared for the demands of caring for
- 17 a minor child.
- 18 (3) It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide
- 19 a program to provide grandparents and ~~older adult~~ OTHER OLDER <—  
20 ADULT RELATIVE caregivers of minor children the information  
21 and tools that they need to care for the child in their  
22 custody.

23 Section 4. Establishment.

24 The department shall establish a Grandparent Caregiver

25 Support Program to serve as a resource for grandparents ~~or~~ AND <—  
26 OTHER older adult RELATIVE caregivers to provide all of the <—  
27 following:

- 28 (1) Technical assistance and training for grandparent
- 29 and older adult relative caregivers support groups.
- 30 (2) Information and referral for grandparents and other

1 older adult relative caregivers.

2 (3) Assistance to grandparents and other older adult  
3 relative caregivers in gaining access to available services,  
4 including legal assistance, medical assistance, guidance for  
5 educational concerns and any other form of services that  
6 might be necessary.

7 (4) Counseling to grandparents and other older adult  
8 relative caregivers in making decisions and solving problems  
9 relating to their role of caregiver to a child.

10 (5) The publication and dissemination of printed  
11 material related to services available to grandparents and  
12 other older adult relative caregivers.

13 Section 20. Regulations.

14 The department shall promulgate regulations necessary to  
15 implement the provisions of this act.

16 Section 21. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect in 60 days.