

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2629 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY FIEDLER, DALEY, SIMS, ULLMAN, T. DAVIS, SANCHEZ, ROZZI, ROEBUCK, GALLOWAY, SCHLOSSBERG, ISAACSON, A. DAVIS, YOUNGBLOOD, BRIGGS, MADDEN, HANBIDGE, GREEN, HILL-EVANS, McCLINTON, GAINNEY, RAVENSTAHL AND DONATUCCI, JUNE 29, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 29, 2020

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 terms and courses of study,
 6 providing for COVID-19 pandemic of 2020.

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

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

12 Section 1501.10. COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020.--(a) This
 13 section applies only to the school year 2019-2020 as a result of
 14 the global pandemic declared by the World Health Organization on
 15 March 11, 2020.

16 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
 17 the following shall apply:

18 (1) An eligible provider of the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts
 19 Program or a Head Start agency or delegate agency providing the

1 Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program shall continue to
2 receive payments from the department as they would otherwise be
3 entitled to receive for the fiscal year 2019-2020 had the
4 pandemic of 2020 not occurred, including if the program is
5 closed or has lower attendance due to the pandemic of 2020.

6 (2) The department shall issue payments to an eligible
7 provider of the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Program or a Head
8 Start agency or delegate agency providing the Head Start
9 Supplemental Assistance Program for an additional twenty (20)
10 days of instruction for children who will enter kindergarten in
11 the 2020-2021 school year as a result of the pandemic of 2020.

12 (3) Every eligible provider of the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts
13 Program or a Head Start agency or delegate agency providing the
14 Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program shall have a minimum
15 of two (2) staff persons participate in a training on the best
16 practices for sanitization related to the pandemic of 2020 and
17 sanitize their program prior to reopening. Training shall be:

18 (i) Offered at no cost.

19 (ii) Credit bearing.

20 (iii) Approved or offered by the Department of Education, in
21 consultation with the Department of Health and the Department of
22 Human Services.

23 (4) Every eligible provider of the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts
24 Program or a Head Start agency or delegate agency providing the
25 Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program with children
26 enrolled as of March 13, 2020, shall be issued a payment of
27 forty dollars (\$40) per child, to assist with the costs of
28 reopening, including sanitization, meeting COVID-19 public
29 health requirements and standards, providing supplies and
30 training.

1 (5) The sum of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000), or as
2 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the
3 General Fund to the Department of Education for the fiscal year
4 July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, for the purpose of funding the
5 Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Program and Head Start Supplemental
6 Assistance Program.

7 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
8 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
9 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

10 "Eligible provider." As defined in paragraphs (1), (2) and
11 (3) of the definition of "eligible provider" in section 1511-D.

12 "Head Start agency or delegate agency." As used in section
13 1501-D, except for an agency or delegate agency that provides
14 child care under section 901 of the act of June 13, 1967
15 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, or is a child
16 care center under section 1001 of the Human Services Code.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.