

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1693

Session of
1985

INTRODUCED BY COWELL, O'DONNELL, CAWLEY, TRELLO, COHEN, TIGUE, HALUSKA, VROON, ITKIN, LIVENGOOD, JOHNSON, STABACK, BLAUM, BELFANTI, PISTELLA, BATTISTO, DeLUCA, MICHLOVIC, NAHILL, ARTY, E. Z. TAYLOR, PRESTON, WOZNIAK, COLAFELLA, FISCHER, PETRONE, BOOK, HARPER, WASS AND LESCOVITZ, SEPTEMBER 30, 1985

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JANUARY 27, 1986

AN ACT

1 Designating the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf,
2 Allegheny County, the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf,
3 Philadelphia County, and the Scranton State School for the
4 Deaf, Lackawanna County, as regional resource centers for
5 hearing impairment.

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

8 Section 1. 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 "Hearing impairment." Any hearing disability ranging in
13 severity from mild to profound, including those conditions
14 commonly referred to as "deaf" and "hard-of-hearing."

15 Section 2. Centers designated.

16 The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Allegheny
17 County, the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Philadelphia

County, and the Scranton State School for the Deaf, Lackawanna County, are hereby designated as regional resource centers for hearing-impaired children and adults.

~~Section 3. Services for the deaf.~~

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~~These centers shall, when feasible, within the constraints of available funds, continue to offer or expand to provide the following services:~~

~~(1) Comprehensive educational services to hearing impaired and multihandicapped hearing impaired children and adults at the infant, preschool, elementary, secondary and postsecondary levels.~~

~~(2) Assessment, counseling and referral service to hearing impaired children and adults.~~

~~(3) Information for deaf and other hearing impaired persons and their families, on services offered locally and elsewhere.~~

~~(4) Expanded adult and continuing educational opportunities for hearing impaired persons.~~

~~(5) A deaf awareness community education program, including training in communication techniques.~~

~~(6) An education and counseling program for parents of deaf infants, to encourage optimum communication and language development as preparation for school age programming.~~

~~(7) Diagnostic vocational assessment, career awareness and job readiness skills for hearing impaired persons; and assistance to other agencies in facilitating the transition of hearing impaired persons into the job market.~~

~~(8) Research and demonstration programs in the area of hearing impairment.~~

~~(9) Technical assistance to intermediate units, school~~

~~districts and other agencies.~~

~~(10) Professional training, demonstration and dissemination services for professionals and community members working with hearing impaired persons.~~

~~(11) An assurance of the availability of services which will enable hearing impaired persons to become self-sufficient and productive citizens of the community.~~

~~(12) An assurance that all the services above will be available to hearing impaired persons regardless of income, age or employability.~~

SECTION 3. SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED. <—

THESE CENTERS SHALL CONTINUE TO OFFER CURRENT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES, TO HEARING-IMPAIRED AND MULTIHANDICAPPED HEARING-IMPAIRED CHILDREN, SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS PROMULGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. IN ADDITION, OTHER FUNDING SOURCES WILL BE USED TO DEVELOP AND EXPAND THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

(1) ASSESSMENT, COUNSELING AND REFERRAL SERVICE TO HEARING-IMPAIRED ADULTS.

(2) INFORMATION FOR DEAF AND OTHER HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES, ON THE VARIOUS FORMS AND SCOPE OF SERVICES OFFERED LOCALLY AND ELSEWHERE.

(3) CONTINUING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED ADULTS.

(4) A DEAF AWARENESS COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM, INCLUDING TRAINING IN COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES.

(5) DIAGNOSTIC VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT, CAREER AWARENESS AND JOB-READINESS SKILLS FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSONS; AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO OTHER AGENCIES IN FACILITATING THE TRANSITION OF HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSONS INTO THE JOB MARKET.

1 (6) RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, DEMONSTRATION AND
2 DISSEMINATION SERVICES FOR PROFESSIONALS AND COMMUNITY
3 MEMBERS WORKING WITH HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSONS.

4 (7) AN ASSURANCE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES WHICH
5 WILL ENABLE HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSONS TO BECOME SELF-
6 SUFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS OF THE COMMUNITY.

7 (8) AN ASSURANCE THAT THE SERVICES PROVIDED WILL BE
8 AVAILABLE TO HEARING-IMPAIRED ADULTS REGARDLESS OF INCOME,
9 AGE OR EMPLOYABILITY.

10 Section 4. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.