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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1732 Session of  
1993

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INTRODUCED BY E. Z. TAYLOR, CAWLEY, FARMER, FLEAGLE, FAIRCHILD,  
WAUGH, PLATTS, GODSHALL, MILLER, BROWN, CLARK, BAKER, ROONEY,  
RUBLEY, BUNT, KASUNIC, MARSICO, GANNON, ARMSTRONG, HENNESSEY,  
TOMLINSON, HUTCHINSON, SATHER, TRUE, LEH, GERLACH, MIHALICH,  
PETRARCA, STABACK, SAURMAN, PITTS, DeLUCA, KING, TIGUE,  
LYNCH, OLASZ, KENNEY, DENT, TRELLO, KIRKLAND, BATTISTO, FAJT,  
D. W. SNYDER AND STEELMAN, JUNE 7, 1993

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, JUNE 7, 1993

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AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment of a pilot program to make  
2 payments to minor parents to encourage school attendance; and  
3 making an appropriation.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Minor Parents  
8 Educational Incentive Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare of the  
14 Commonwealth.

15 "Minor parent." A recipient of aid to families with  
16 dependent children under the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,

1 No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, who is under 19 years  
2 of age and is a natural or adoptive custodial parent.

3 "Qualified reason for nonattendance." An excusal from school  
4 provided for in section 1329, 1330 or 1417 of the act of March  
5 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of  
6 1949, or 22 Pa. Code Ch. 11 (relating to pupil attendance).

7 "School." An educational program that is designed to lead to  
8 the attainment of a high school diploma or the equivalent of a  
9 high school diploma.

#### 10 Section 3. Establishment of pilot program.

11 The department shall establish a pilot program to provide  
12 incentive payments to minor parents to encourage them to attend  
13 school.

#### 14 Section 4. Program components.

15 The program shall require every minor parent who is  
16 participating in the pilot program to attend school in  
17 accordance with requirements established by the department,  
18 unless a minor parent demonstrates a qualified reason for not  
19 attending school. The department shall provide, in addition to  
20 the aid to families with dependent children allowance, to every  
21 minor parent who participates in the pilot program and complies  
22 with requirements established by the department, an incentive  
23 payment in the amount of \$50 per month, unless the amount  
24 appropriated for the pilot program is insufficient to provide a  
25 monthly payment in that amount in which case there shall be a  
26 pro rata reduction in the amount of the incentive payment. The  
27 department shall reduce the incentive payment, in the amount  
28 determined by the department, to every minor parent who  
29 participates in the pilot program and who fails or refuses,  
30 without a qualified reason, to attend school.

1 Section 5. Program requirements.

2 The department shall require every minor parent who  
3 participates in the pilot program to enter into a written  
4 contract with the county department of human services that  
5 provides all of the following:

6 (1) The minor parent, to be eligible to receive the  
7 incentive payment under this act, must attend school in  
8 accordance with the requirements of the pilot program.

9 (2) The county assistance office will provide the  
10 incentive payment to the minor parent if the minor parent  
11 attends school.

12 (3) The county assistance office will discontinue the  
13 incentive payment if the minor parent fails to attend or  
14 refuses to attend school in accordance with the requirements  
15 of the pilot program.

16 Section 6. Evaluation of program.

17 The department shall evaluate the program established under  
18 this act and shall issue a report to the Governor and the  
19 General Assembly. In conducting the evaluation, the department  
20 shall select control groups of minor parents who are not  
21 participating in the pilot program for comparison with minor  
22 parents who are participating in the pilot program.

23 Section 7. Appropriation.

24 The sum of \$250,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,  
25 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Public Welfare for  
26 the fiscal year July 1, 1993, to June 30, 1994, to carry out the  
27 provisions of this act. No more than \$50,000 of the amount  
28 appropriated shall be expended for administrative costs of the  
29 pilot program.

30 Section 8. Effective date.

1       This act shall take effect in 60 days.