

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 431 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY BODACK, TARTAGLIONE, FUMO, STOUT, WILLIAMS, BELAN,
STAPLETON, SCHWARTZ, DAWIDA, MELLOW, JONES, WAGNER, O'PAKE
AND AFFLERBACH, FEBRUARY 9, 1995

REFERRED TO AGING AND YOUTH, FEBRUARY 9, 1995

AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment of intergenerational child-care
2 demonstration projects in selected sites throughout this
3 Commonwealth.

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
8 Intergenerational Child-Care Demonstration Project Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative intent.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) Sixty percent of American families with children
12 under the age of six report mothers in the work force. These
13 children are cared for in a variety of settings such as
14 child-care centers and family day-care homes and group day-
15 care homes.

16 (2) A child-care staffing crisis exists because of the
17 declining population in the 18 to 24-year-old group, the
18 primary labor pool for child-care workers. The number of

1 cohorts in this age group declined by 5,000,000 in the 1980-
2 1990 decade.

3 (3) Good quality child care depends on well-oriented,
4 trained and supervised staff members working with adequate
5 pay and benefits, regardless of age.

6 (4) Older adults are a valuable and viable source of new
7 staff members for child-care providers.

8 (5) Older adult child caregivers can offer children
9 benefits such as providing a mutual source of physical
10 comfort and nurturing for appropriate physical and emotional
11 development for both child and adult; teaching young children
12 about the process of aging and giving them contact with
13 people of all ages enjoying and participating in productive
14 activities; demonstrating to young children the complete life
15 cycle and how different generations care for each other; and
16 helping children understand their emotions through the
17 unconditional acceptance of caring, older adults.

18 (6) To contribute to the improvement of child-care
19 conditions, older adults must be recruited, placed, trained
20 and supervised in working conditions that allow them to feel
21 productive and contribute their talents and knowledge gained
22 from their years of experience.

23 (7) The Commonwealth, with a large older adult
24 population, should utilize the ability and talent of older
25 adults to help improve the overall quality of child care.

26 (8) The Commonwealth should encourage and fund
27 demonstration projects highlighting intergenerational child
28 care and how it can be encouraged and aided in different
29 child-care settings.

30 Section 3. Definitions.

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

4 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare of the
5 Commonwealth.

6 "Intergenerational child care." Child day-care programs
7 which make a deliberate attempt to involve older adults as staff
8 members or volunteers or through visitation between early
9 childhood and older adult programs.

10 "Older adult." A person 55 years of age or older.

11 Section 4. Demonstration projects.

12 The department shall begin multiyear demonstration projects
13 illustrating various ways in which intergenerational child care
14 can be used in child-care settings.

15 Section 5. Guidelines for demonstration projects.

16 (a) Child-care sites.--The department shall advertise and
17 select five to six sites at which State-licensed or regulated
18 child care is provided to begin training and placement of older
19 adults into intergenerational programs. The sites should be
20 geographically and culturally diverse and highlight
21 intergenerational care in different child-care settings, if
22 possible.

23 (b) Recruitment of older adults.--The department shall work
24 with the Department of Aging and any local branches to recruit
25 older adults interested in intergenerational child-care work.
26 Recruitment should include informational workshops which detail
27 intergenerational child care, including the history, rationale,
28 types of programming and different ways it can be used.

29 (c) Training of older adults.--The department shall help
30 train older adults for work in child care. Training for older

1 adults who intend to work for pay in child care shall include
2 formal instruction in areas such as:

- 3 (1) Early childhood development.
- 4 (2) Child or staff health.
- 5 (3) Supervision.
- 6 (4) Guidance or discipline of children.
- 7 (5) Nutrition.
- 8 (6) Program development.
- 9 (7) Staff professional development.

10 (d) Requirement compliance.--All older adults interested in
11 working or volunteering in a child-care facility shall fulfill
12 all requirements regarding age and training in 55 Pa. Code §
13 3280.31 (relating to age and training). They shall also comply
14 with general requirements for staffing and qualifications and
15 responsibilities as required in 55 Pa. Code §§ 3280.33 (relating
16 to general requirements for facility persons), 3280.34 (relating
17 to primary staff person qualifications and responsibilities) and
18 3280.35 (relating to secondary staff person qualifications and
19 responsibilities), unless specific requirements are waived by
20 the department.

21 (e) Clearance checks.--All older adults interested in
22 working or volunteering at an intergenerational child-care
23 facility shall apply for and receive all required clearance
24 checks under 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to child protective
25 services).

26 (f) Training workshops for child-care providers.--The
27 department shall conduct training workshops for all child-care
28 providers to acquaint them with the skills and attitudes of
29 older workers and assist providers in integrating older workers
30 into their staffs.

1 (g) Placement by department.--The department shall assist in
2 the placement of all older workers who take part in training
3 programs into appropriate intergenerational child-care programs.

4 (h) Expansion.--After the first year of the demonstration
5 projects, the department may continue to expand the awareness
6 and participation in intergenerational child care by any of the
7 following or other methods:

8 (1) Beginning an intergenerational newsletter.

9 (2) Sponsoring a Statewide conference to promote
10 expansion and further training.

11 (3) Publishing appropriate guidelines and training
12 booklets.

13 Section 6. Regulations.

14 The department shall promulgate regulations as necessary to
15 implement this act.

16 Section 7. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect in 90 days.