

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 815 Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, MOWERY AND PUNT, APRIL 1, 1997

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 1, 1997

AN ACT

1 Providing financial assistance to school districts adversely
2 impacted by the closing or realignment of a military base.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Base Closure
7 and Realignment Assistance Act.

8 Section 2. 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 "Base Closure Act." The National Defense Authorization Act
13 for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101-510, 104 Stat. 1485).

14 "Base year." The last school fiscal year prior to the
15 reduction or elimination of Federal assistance as a result of a
16 decision under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
17 Year 1991 (Public Law 101-510, 104 Stat. 1485).

1 "Department." The Department of Education of the
2 Commonwealth.

3 "Federal assistance." Subsidies from the United States
4 Department of Education for the costs of educating students who
5 live in military housing and for payments in lieu of property
6 taxes because of the location of a military base or installation
7 within the school district.

8 "Program." The grant program established under section 3.
9 Section 3. Grant program.

10 (a) Establishment of program.--There is hereby established
11 under this act and within the department a grant program to
12 provide assistance to school districts to help offset their loss
13 of Federal assistance resulting from the closure or realignment
14 of military bases or installations. The department shall
15 establish grant application procedures for school districts
16 wishing to apply for a grant under this program.

17 (b) Qualifications for grant.--In order for a school
18 district to qualify for a grant under this program, the school
19 district must certify that both of the following have occurred:

20 (1) The school district must have received Federal
21 assistance during the school fiscal year prior to the closing
22 or realignment of the military base or installation as a
23 result of a decision under the Base Closure Act.

24 (2) The school district's Federal assistance must have
25 been reduced or eliminated as a result of the closing or
26 realignment of the military base or installation as a result
27 of a decision under the Base Closure Act.

28 (c) Effective date of grant program.--The grant program
29 shall take effect the first school fiscal year during which
30 Federal assistance is reduced or eliminated. Once the department

1 determines that a school district is qualified to receive a
2 grant under this program, the school district shall not be
3 required to apply each year for a renewal of the grant. However,
4 if at any time, Federal assistance is reinstated or increased,
5 the school district shall immediately notify the department so
6 that the grant may be discontinued or the grant amount may be
7 adjusted, whichever is appropriate.

8 (d) Amount of grant.--The Commonwealth, through the
9 department, shall provide a grant to any qualified school
10 district as follows:

11 (1) For the first school fiscal year during which the
12 school district's Federal assistance is reduced or
13 eliminated, the amount of the grant shall be 100% of the
14 difference between the amount of Federal assistance received
15 during the base year and the amount of Federal assistance
16 received, if any, during the first year.

17 (2) For the second school fiscal year during which the
18 school district's Federal assistance is reduced or
19 eliminated, the amount of the grant shall be 80% of the
20 difference between the amount of Federal assistance received
21 during the base year and the amount of Federal assistance
22 received, if any, during the second year.

23 (3) For the third school fiscal year during which the
24 school district's Federal assistance is reduced or
25 eliminated, the amount of the grant shall be 60% of the
26 difference between the amount of Federal assistance received
27 during the base year and the amount of Federal assistance
28 received, if any, during the third year.

29 (4) For the fourth school fiscal year during which the
30 school district's Federal assistance is reduced or

1 eliminated, the amount of the grant shall be 40% of the
2 difference between the amount of Federal assistance received
3 during the base year and the amount of Federal assistance
4 received, if any, during the fourth year.

5 (5) For the fifth school fiscal year during which the
6 school district's Federal assistance is reduced or
7 eliminated, the amount of the grant shall be 20% of the
8 difference between the amount of Federal assistance received
9 during the base year and the amount of Federal assistance
10 received, if any, during the fifth year.

11 (e) Discontinuance of grant.--The school district's grant
12 under this program shall be discontinued after the school
13 district receives its grant amount for the fifth school fiscal
14 year under subsection (d)(5). This provision does not prohibit a
15 school district from receiving a separate grant under this
16 program as a result of a separate decision under the Base
17 Closure Act affecting the same or another military base or
18 installation.

19 Section 4. Regulations.

20 The department shall promulgate any regulations it deems
21 necessary for the implementation of this act.

22 Section 5. Insufficient appropriation.

23 During any fiscal year, if the General Assembly's
24 appropriation for this program is insufficient to cover the
25 entire costs of the grants, the department shall reduce the
26 amount of the grants proportionally.

27 Section 6. Applicability.

28 This act shall apply to a decision under the Base Closure Act
29 to close or realign a military base or installation, if the base
30 or installation closure or realignment takes effect on or after

1 July 1, 1996.

2 Section 7. Effective date.

3 This act shall take effect immediately.