

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2604 Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY E. Z. TAYLOR, RUBLEY, STAIRS, O'BRIEN, ADOLPH,
ARMSTRONG, BARRAR, CAWLEY, CLYMER, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA,
DAILEY, DENLINGER, FICHTER, FLEAGLE, FLICK, GOOD, GOODMAN,
HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, KOTIK, LEDERER, MACKERETH,
R. MILLER, O'NEILL, REICHLEY, ROSS, SATHER, SCHRODER,
T. STEVENSON, TIGUE, TRUE, WATSON, WEBER, WHEATLEY,
WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 11, 2004

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 11, 2004

AN ACT

1 Making an appropriation to the Department of Education for
2 payments to approved private schools relating to completed
3 audits.

4 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

5 (1) This Commonwealth's 30 approved private schools are
6 an important component of our system of basic education and
7 provide vital high quality services to approximately 4,000
8 children with severe disabilities.

9 (2) The General Assembly deeply values the work of the
10 approved private schools in helping children reach their
11 educational potential.

12 (3) The Department of Education approves the enrollment
13 of students from public schools in approved private schools.

14 (4) The Commonwealth and school districts share the
15 costs of approved private schools and it is the
16 Commonwealth's obligation to ensure that its share of funding

1 is provided in a predictable manner, which ensures the
2 approved private schools' continued operation.

3 (5) Approved private schools' costs have exceeded
4 appropriations made by the General Assembly and the audit
5 resolution fund is insolvent.

6 (6) It is estimated that the approved private schools
7 are owed in excess of \$30,000,000 from the Commonwealth for
8 expenses related to approved students.

9 (7) The Commonwealth should compensate approved private
10 schools for the Commonwealth's share of expenses owed to
11 approved private schools so they can continue to provide
12 services to students.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. The sum of \$30,000,000 is hereby appropriated to
16 the Department of Education for the purpose of paying to
17 approved private schools moneys owed by the Commonwealth as a
18 result of completed audits which sum shall be transferred
19 immediately to the restricted account for audit resolution
20 established under section 1376(c.1) of the act of March 10, 1949
21 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.