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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 983      Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, RAFFERTY, WONDERLING, BOSCOLA,  
ERICKSON, REGOLA, COSTA, O'PAKE, PICCOLA, GREENLEAF AND  
FONTANA, JUNE 19, 2007

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 19, 2007

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," providing for technology grants to  
6 benefit students in nonpublic and private schools.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1505-A of the act of March 10, 1949  
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added  
11 April 27, 1998 (P.L.270, No.46), is amended to read:

12 Section 1505-A. Technology Grants for Equipment and  
13 Services.--(a) The purposes of the technology grants to benefit  
14 students in nonpublic and private schools are to:

15 (1) Improve the education Pennsylvania's nonpublic and  
16 private school students receive.

17 (2) Increase nonpublic and private students' access to  
18 worldwide information, expertise and resources available through  
19 technology.

1 (3) Provide professional development opportunities to ensure  
2 nonpublic and private school teachers can use technology  
3 effectively with the curriculum.

4 (4) Complement Link-to-Learn's efforts and add value to the  
5 Pennsylvania Education Network by forging collaborative  
6 partnerships between educational institutions.

7 (5) Complement Federal technology initiatives.

8 (b) The Department of Education through intermediate units  
9 shall have the power and duty to purchase computer hardware,  
10 software, connectivity and related technology to loan them to  
11 all children residing in this Commonwealth who are enrolled in  
12 grades kindergarten through twelve of a nonpublic and private  
13 school and may provide professional development opportunities.  
14 The Secretary of Education shall establish a per capita formula  
15 based on the number of eligible students in nonpublic and  
16 private schools and each intermediate unit. Funds shall be  
17 allocated to intermediate units who shall purchase and loan the  
18 equipment to such children based on the per capita formula  
19 established by the Secretary of Education and may provide  
20 professional development opportunities. Equipment and services  
21 shall not be used for sectarian purposes.

22 (c) In July of 2007, and annually thereafter, the Secretary  
23 of Education shall allocate to each intermediate unit an amount  
24 equal to the number of nonpublic school students as of October 1  
25 of the preceding school year who are enrolled in nonpublic  
26 schools within the intermediate unit times thirty dollars (\$30).  
27 The Secretary of Education shall increase this figure on a  
28 proportionate basis whenever there is an increase in the basic  
29 education funding for public school districts in the General  
30 Appropriation Act enacted for the then current State fiscal

1 year.

2       Section 2.   This act shall take effect immediately.