AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," in school safety and security, providing for COVID-19 pandemic trauma-informed education grants for 2023-2024 school year; and making an appropriation.

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

Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 1319-B. COVID-19 pandemic trauma-informed education grants for 2023-2024 school year.

(a) Legislative findings.--The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

(1) The COVID-19 pandemic inflicted trauma on many students.

(2) It is necessary to provide instruction and mental and behavioral health supports through trauma-informed
approaches for the purpose of improving the social and
emotional well-being of students and fostering a nurturing
learning environment.

(b) Appropriation.--In addition to any other money
appropriated to the committee for grants under this article, the
sum of $50,000,000 is appropriated to the committee from the
General Fund to make grants under this section. The
appropriation under this subsection shall not lapse.

(c) Compliance and monitoring.--The committee shall monitor
grant recipients under this section to ensure appropriate use of
grant money and compliance with Federal guidelines and
regulations and the provisions of this section.

(d) Purpose of grants.--The committee shall provide grants
under this section to each qualifying school entity for the
specific purpose under section 1306-B(j)(20), (21) or (22).

(e) Amount of grants.--

(1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), the amount
of a grant awarded to a qualifying school entity shall not be
less than $20,000.

(2) The committee may award an additional grant amount
to a qualifying school entity with a large student population
or a qualifying school entity with a high level of student
poverty in accordance with the guidelines developed under
subsection (h).

(f) Availability of applications.--The committee shall
notify and make applications available for grants under this
section to each school entity within 60 days of the effective
date of this section. The application requirements shall include
the school entity's contact information and specific purpose for
the grant under section 1306-B(j)(20), (21) or (22) and any
other requirements specified by the committee in the guidelines developed under subsection (h).

(g) Deadlines for applications.--A school entity must submit an application for grant money under this section no later than 30 days after the committee makes the application available under subsection (f).

(h) Guidelines.--The committee shall develop guidelines to implement this section to ensure the appropriate use of grant money.

(i) Definitions.--As used in this section, the term "school entity" means a public school, charter school, area career and technical school or nonpublic school. The term does not include a cyber charter school.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.