
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 607 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, WAGNER, WHEATLEY, VULAKOVICH, JOHNSON,
MYERS, BROWNLEE, V. BROWN, BOBACK, MURT AND CRUZ,
FEBRUARY 10, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FEBRUARY 10, 2011

AN ACT

1 Providing for a comprehensive interagency plan for child day-
2 care services and early childhood development services and
3 for the powers and duties of the Department of Public
4 Welfare.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Child Day
9 Care and Early Childhood Development State Plan Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Child day care." Care in lieu of parental care given for
15 part of the 24-hour day to children under 16 years of age, away
16 from their own homes. The term does not include child day care
17 furnished in places of worship during religious services.

18 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare of the

1 Commonwealth.

2 "Early childhood development services." Services which are
3 intended to provide an environment which enhances the
4 educational, social, cultural, emotional and recreational
5 development of children from birth through eight years of age
6 but which are not intended to serve as a substitute for
7 compulsory academic programs.

8 Section 3. Annual comprehensive State plan for child day-care
9 and early childhood development services.

10 (a) Annual plan.--Through an annual State plan on child day-
11 care and early childhood development services, the department,
12 in coordination with the Department of Health and the Department
13 of Education, shall establish goals and objectives and review
14 and assess the State's child day-care and early childhood
15 development service delivery system, including State efforts to
16 assure the provision of accessible, available and affordable
17 quality child day-care and early childhood development services
18 and a continuum of early childhood programs to the general
19 public. The plan shall be developed in relation to Statewide and
20 local needs and shall take into consideration available
21 demographic studies. It shall reflect the needs of families in
22 different social, economic and cultural circumstances and the
23 needs of children of different ages and stages of development
24 and of children with special needs.

25 (b) Submission.--No later than May 1 of each year, the
26 department shall submit to the Governor, the Chief Clerk of the
27 Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives a
28 State plan on child day-care and early childhood development
29 services for the ensuing year.

30 (c) Common policies and practices.--In the development and

1 implementation of an annual State plan, the department shall
2 promote common policies and practices in programs to the fullest
3 extent possible and develop mechanisms for interagency
4 collaboration to create a coordinated State child day-care and
5 early childhood development services delivery system. This
6 subsection includes simplification and coordination of the
7 application process for families needing services.

8 (d) Public hearings.--To prepare the State plan, the
9 department shall hold at least four public hearings in different
10 geographic locations in this Commonwealth to seek input and
11 recommendations from parents, early childhood development
12 professionals, child day-care providers, child advocates,
13 educators, representatives of local government, health and human
14 service organizations, health care professionals, labor
15 organizations, businesses, school officials and other
16 individuals or agencies interested in issues affecting children
17 and families.

18 (e) Contents of plans.--The State plan shall include the
19 following information:

20 (1) A summary of recommendations submitted to the
21 department pursuant to Statewide public hearings and the
22 department's response to the recommendations.

23 (2) The amount of Federal, State and local funds
24 requested for child day-care and early childhood development
25 services and the allocation of these funds, by the type of
26 care and by administrative costs. Funding includes the Social
27 Services Block Grant Act (Public Law 97-35, 42 U.S.C. § 1397
28 et seq.); Titles I and VI of the Personal Responsibility and
29 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law
30 104-193, 110 Stat. 2105); the Head Start Act (Public Law

1 97-35, 42 U.S.C. § 9831 et seq.); subarticle (b) of Article
2 XV-D of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as
3 the Public School Code of 1949; the act of December 19, 1990
4 (P.L.1372, No.212), known as the Early Intervention Services
5 System Act; and other pertinent State appropriations.

6 (3) A description of child day-care, early childhood
7 development and early childhood education programs in this
8 Commonwealth.

9 (4) The following information, if available:

10 (i) the unduplicated number of children served and
11 assisted with Federal, State and local funds, by type of
12 care and age;

13 (ii) funding source for the services;

14 (iii) the average duration of the child-care
15 service; and

16 (iv) the child capacity of regulated providers.

17 (5) Income eligibility guidelines for federally funded
18 and State-funded child day-care and early childhood
19 development services, including, as applicable, sliding fee
20 scales and the extent to which the income guidelines and fee
21 scales are adjusted to reflect the most recent available
22 State income data.

23 (6) The State's practices regarding the monitoring of
24 child day-care and early childhood development programs to
25 ensure the health, safety, welfare and early learning
26 outcomes of children. In describing the monitoring system,
27 the department shall identify the extent of announced and
28 unannounced inspections of regulated providers, the level of
29 compliance with State standards and the staff-to-provider
30 ratio to accomplish this task. This paragraph includes

1 recommendations on ways to improve both the enforcement and
2 monitoring of standards and compliance with standards.

3 (7) The department's coordination, identification or
4 arrangement of training and professional preparation and
5 development for providers in specific program areas that are
6 designed to improve the quality of child day-care and early
7 childhood development services. The department shall
8 identify:

9 (i) any Federal, State, local or private funding
10 allocated for training and professional preparation and
11 development;

12 (ii) the objectives of the training and professional
13 preparation and development;

14 (iii) the way in which training and professional
15 preparation and development will be accomplished; and

16 (iv) an evaluation of the previous year's training
17 and professional preparation and development programs.

18 (8) An analysis of any recent demonstration projects
19 related to child day care or early childhood development
20 established by the department or the Department of Health or
21 the Department of Education, using Federal or State funds,
22 along with a summary of the cost of the projects and the
23 findings and recommendations of the department.

24 (9) A summary of any recent reports, data or surveys
25 concerning the compensation of child day-care and early
26 childhood development professionals, loan forgiveness
27 programs, the State's reimbursement rates and any changes in
28 rates recommended by the department.

29 (10) A summary of the most recent available demographic
30 information related to the need for child day-care and early

1 childhood development programs in this Commonwealth.

2 (11) Efforts by the private sector and State and local
3 government to encourage employer-sponsored child day-care
4 services and policies aimed at addressing the child day-care
5 needs of working parents.

6 (12) A description of the responsibilities and programs
7 of various State departments with respect to child day-care
8 and early childhood development services and how coordination
9 among agencies is addressed. The department shall describe
10 its responsibilities and programs under various program
11 offices and related programs or services available through
12 the Department of Aging, the Department of Community and
13 Economic Development, the Department of Education, the
14 Department of Health or the Department of Labor and Industry.

15 (13) Standards, training and professional preparation
16 and development for child day-care providers who receive
17 payment through Federal or State child day-care or early
18 childhood development programs. The standards, training and
19 professional preparation and development shall promote the
20 health, safety and developmental needs of children.

21 (14) Identification of gaps in child day-care and early
22 childhood development services, unmet needs, administrative
23 barriers that serve as obstacles to obtaining services and
24 recommendations on how the State can address these issues.

25 (15) Statutory and regulatory changes recommended by the
26 department to address the quality, affordability and
27 availability of child day-care and early childhood
28 development services.

29 Section 10. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect in 60 days.