

CHILDREN WITH HEARING DEFECTS

Act of Jul. 2, 1937, P.L. 2721, No. 554

Cl. 35

(Act partly repealed Mar. 10, 1949, P.L.30, No.14)

AN ACT

Concerning children under six years of age with defective hearing; imposing duties on the Department of Health, the Department of Public Instruction, on parents, guardians, nurses, and physicians; and placing certain costs on school districts; and making an appropriation.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That it shall be the duty of every attending or consulting physician, nurse, parent, or guardian, having charge of any minor under six years of age who is totally deaf or whose hearing is impaired, to report at once in person or in writing to the State Department of Health, stating the name, age, and residence of such minor, and furnish such additional information with respect to such minor as the Department of Health shall require. Thereupon, the department shall refer the facts relative to such minor to its county medical director, to ascertain whether such minor is receiving adequate care and treatment. If the county medical director finds that such adequate care and treatment is not provided, and that the parent or guardian is financially unable to provide the same, he shall report the case to the medical inspector of the school district, who shall provide such care and treatment at the expense of the school district or of the Commonwealth, as the case may be, charged by law with the providing of medical inspection for the schools of the school district. Such care and treatment may be administered by the medical inspector or by some doctor of medicine selected by him.

Section 2. The Department of Health shall, in every such instance, notify the Superintendent of Public Instruction of its disposition of the case, and the name of the county medical director and medical inspector of schools to whom the same was referred.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction, when in his judgment the same is deemed desirable, shall communicate to the parent or guardian the location of any special schools, and also the nearest public school having special classes for the instruction of the hard of hearing, with the information concerning the advantages offered by such school or classes, the benefits to accrue to the child from attending such school or classes, and the manner in which the expenses of such instruction will be provided for.

Section 3. The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby specifically appropriated to the Department of Health for the purpose of paying for the care and treatment furnished by medical inspectors of school districts under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, or by doctors of medicine selected by such medical inspectors.

Section 4. This act shall become effective on the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.