

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1020 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY MEHAFFIE, SOLOMON, BURGOS, CERRATO, CIRESI, DEASY,
HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, ROZZI, SANCHEZ AND WARREN, MAY 19, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MAY 19, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in departmental powers and
4 duties as to supervision, providing for Keystone STARS
5 Program; and, in departmental powers and duties as to
6 licensing, further providing for fees, providing for Keystone
7 STARS Program and further providing for definition.

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

10 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
11 as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to
12 read:

13 Section 923. Keystone STARS Program.--(a) Each certified
14 child-care provider in the Keystone STARS Program may:

15 (1) Denote on its publicly accessible Internet website, if
16 operational, its designated STAR-level rating, which shall
17 include how many STARS that the certified child-care provider
18 has received.

19 (2) Provide, in a linguistically appropriate manner, the
20 certified child-care provider's STAR-level rating and the

1 publicly accessible Internet website of the department that
2 includes information on the Keystone STARS Program in writing to
3 a parent or legal guardian at the time of application.

4 (3) Obtain a department-issued placard that denotes the
5 certified child-care provider's participation in the Keystone
6 STARS Program and designated STAR-level rating, which may be
7 displayed in a public-facing location.

8 (b) The department shall be responsible for issuing placards
9 to program participants in conformance with the following:

10 (1) The placards shall be clear, visible, readable and
11 linguistically appropriate.

12 (2) The placards shall include the following information:

13 (i) The name of the certified child-care provider.

14 (ii) The name of the department.

15 (iii) The date that the department issued the placard.

16 (iv) The number of STARS that the certified child-care
17 provider has received.

18 (v) The address, telephone number, publicly accessible
19 Internet website that includes information on the Keystone STARS
20 Program and e-mail address of the department.

21 (c) The department shall issue guidance that establishes a
22 Keystone STARS rubric which provides a pathway for a certified
23 child-care provider that chooses to participate in the Keystone
24 STARS Program to move up a STAR level by permitting
25 demonstration of a combination of staff qualifications, work
26 experience and professional development, quality early childhood
27 education program activities, partnerships with families and
28 communities and effective leadership and program management when
29 applying for additional STARS.

30 (d) As used in this section, the following words and phrases

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

2 "Certified child-care provider" means:

3 (1) A child-care center or family child-care home certified
4 or licensed under Article X.

5 (2) A provider certified or licensed to provide child care
6 under Article IX.

7 "Keystone STARS" means the standards, training and
8 professional development, assistance, resources and supports
9 (STARS) used in the Commonwealth's quality rating and
10 improvement system for certified child-care providers.

11 "STAR" means a level of performance rating for early learning
12 programs participating in the Keystone STARS Program that
13 assesses staff education, learning environment, leadership and
14 management and family and community partnerships.

15 Section 2. Section 1006 of the act is amended to read:

16 Section 1006. Fees.--Annual licenses shall be issued when
17 the proper fee, if required, is received by the department and
18 all the other conditions prescribed in this act are met. For
19 personal care homes, the fee shall be an application fee. The
20 fees shall be:

21 Facility	Annual Fee
22 Adult day care center	\$ 15
23 Mental health establishment	50
24 Personal care home-- 0 - 20 beds	15
25 -- 21 - 50 beds	20
26 -- 51 - 100 beds	30
27 --101 beds and above	50

28 No fee shall be required for the annual license in the case of
29 [day] child care centers, family child care homes, boarding
30 homes for children or for public or nonprofit mental

1 institutions.

2 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

3 Section 1019. Keystone STARS Program.--(a) Each certified
4 child-care provider in the Keystone STARS Program may:

5 (1) Denote on its publicly accessible Internet website, if
6 operational, its designated STAR-level rating, which shall
7 include how many STARS that the certified child-care provider
8 has received.

9 (2) Provide, in a linguistically appropriate manner, the
10 certified child-care provider's STAR-level rating and the
11 publicly accessible Internet website of the department that
12 includes information on the Keystone STARS Program in writing to
13 a parent or legal guardian at the time of application.

14 (3) Obtain a department-issued placard that denotes the
15 certified child-care provider's participation in the Keystone
16 STARS Program and designated STAR-level rating, which may be
17 displayed in a public-facing location.

18 (b) The department shall be responsible for issuing placards
19 to program participants in conformance with the following:

20 (1) The placards shall be clear, visible, readable and
21 linguistically appropriate.

22 (2) The placards shall include the following information:

23 (i) The name of the certified child-care provider.

24 (ii) The name of the department.

25 (iii) The date that the department issued the placard.

26 (iv) The number of STARS that the certified child-care
27 provider has received.

28 (v) The address, telephone number, publicly accessible
29 Internet website that includes information on the Keystone STARS
30 Program and e-mail address of the department.

1 (c) The department shall issue guidance that establishes a
2 Keystone STARS rubric which provides a pathway for a certified
3 child-care provider that chooses to participate in the Keystone
4 STARS Program to move up a STAR level by permitting appropriate
5 demonstration of a combination of staff qualifications, work
6 experience and professional development, quality early childhood
7 education program activities, partnerships with families and
8 communities and effective leadership and program management when
9 applying for additional STARS.

10 (d) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

12 "Certified child-care provider" means:

13 (1) A child-care center or family child-care home certified
14 or licensed under Article X.

15 (2) A provider certified or licensed to provide child care
16 under Article IX.

17 "Keystone STARS" means the standards, training and
18 professional development, assistance, resources and supports
19 (STARS) used in the Commonwealth's quality rating and
20 improvement system for certified child-care providers.

21 "STAR" means a level of performance rating for early learning
22 programs participating in the Keystone STARS Program that
23 assesses staff education, learning environment, leadership and
24 management and family and community partnerships.

25 Section 4. Section 1051 of the act is amended to read:

26 Section 1051. Definition.--As used in this subarticle--

27 "Private institution" means any of the following facilities
28 by whatever term known and irrespective of the age group served:
29 Mental hospital, institution for the mentally defective, [day]
30 child care center, nursing home, hospital, personal care home,

1 assisted living residence and other similar institution which is
2 operated for profit and which requires a license issued by the
3 department.

4 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 180 days.