

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1251

Session of
1987

INTRODUCED BY EVANS, KOSINSKI, CARN, WIGGINS, TRUMAN, HAYDEN,
ROEBUCK AND RIEGER, APRIL 28, 1987

AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, NOVEMBER 14, 1988

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," further providing for~~
4 ~~technical assistance to family day care home providers.~~
5 PROVIDING FOR DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS IN CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND <—
6 REFERRAL SERVICES; AND CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES ON THE
7 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE.

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

10 ~~Section 1. Section 1077 of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,~~ <—
11 ~~No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, added December 5, 1980~~
12 ~~(P.L.1112, No.193), is amended to read:~~

13 ~~Section 1077. Technical Assistance. (a) The department may~~
14 ~~offer and provide upon request technical assistance to~~
15 ~~caregivers to assist them in complying with department~~
16 ~~regulations.~~

17 ~~(b) The department may subcontract with public, private or~~
18 ~~nonprofit agencies, associations and corporations in each of the~~
19 ~~four regions of this Commonwealth for day care information and~~

~~referral services. The subcontractors shall:~~

~~(1) Provide information on quality care, including standards, type of program, cost, location and availability.~~

~~(2) Link parents with services and follow through to insure they have received appropriate services.~~

~~(3) Provide advocacy and troubleshooting.~~

~~(4) Provide parents with a system for giving consumer feedback.~~

~~(5) Keep data on the consumers and parents served to augment overall data collection efforts to pinpoint need and patterns of problems.~~

~~(6) Publicize the needs of parents to others in the day care community.~~

~~(7) Reach out to share information with pediatricians, religious institutions, teachers, caseworkers and community agencies.~~

~~(8) Develop and implement a public education and media campaign to educate parents to look for licensed caregivers and licensed facilities and to shop for quality day care.~~

~~Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1987, or immediately, whichever is later.~~

~~SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.~~

~~THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL ACT.~~

~~SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.~~

~~THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ACT SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:~~

~~"CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCY." A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT PERFORMS FUNCTIONS RELATED TO~~

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1 CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SERVICES. THE TERM INCLUDES AN
2 ASSOCIATION AND A CORPORATION.

3 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE OF THE
4 COMMONWEALTH.

5 SECTION 3. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.

6 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH FOUR
7 DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS IN THIS COMMONWEALTH TO EVALUATE THE
8 DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND EXPANSION OF QUALITY CHILD CARE
9 THROUGH REGIONALIZED RESOURCE AND REFERRAL CHILD CARE SERVICES.
10 IN ADDITION, THESE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS SHALL ASSESS THE ROLE
11 OF A RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCY IN FURTHERING THE DEPARTMENT'S
12 GOAL TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO CHILD CARE, QUALITY OF CHILD CARE,
13 MONITORING OF CHILD CARE AND PLANNING FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES.
14 TO ACHIEVE COST EFFICIENCY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY AND
15 UTILIZE, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, EXISTING RESOURCE AND REFERRAL
16 AGENCIES OPERATING IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

17 (B) DURATION.--THE PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)
18 SHALL OPERATE FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS. THEY MAY BE CONTINUED IF
19 FUNDING IS AVAILABLE.

20 SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY.

21 A CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCY IS ELIGIBLE TO
22 PROVIDE A DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM UNDER SECTION 3 IF IT CAN
23 DEMONSTRATE, THROUGH PAST PERFORMANCE OR CURRENT SERVICE,
24 ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS UNDER SECTION 5 AND
25 IF IT CAN PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT IT HAS SERVED LOW-INCOME
26 FAMILIES.

27 SECTION 5. FUNCTION.

28 A CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCY MUST PROVIDE, AT A
29 MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

30 (1) IDENTIFICATION OF ALL LEGALLY OPERATING CHILD CARE

SERVICES IN A DEFINED GEOGRAPHICAL AREA.

(2) MAINTENANCE OF A REGULARLY UPDATED RESOURCE FILE OF SERVICES AND VACANCIES.

(3) PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY, COST, STANDARDS AND TYPES OF CHILD CARE PROGRAMS IN A DEFINED GEOGRAPHICAL AREA.

(4) ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS IN EVALUATING CHILD CARE NEEDS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF TYPES OF CARE.

(5) REFERRALS TO CHILD CARE SERVICES NEAR THE HOME, WORK AREA, OR FACILITY WHERE THE PARENT IS ATTENDING SCHOOL OR RECEIVING JOB TRAINING.

(6) PROVIDING CAREGIVERS WITH TRAINING WORKSHOPS, ASSISTANCE IN FILLING VACANCIES, ADVOCACY FOR ATTAINING PROFESSIONAL STATUS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES AND ACCESS TO ONGOING EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS.

(7) PROVISION OF START-UP INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO STIMULATE THE SUPPLY OF CHILD CARE RESOURCES.

(8) ABILITY TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM BUSINESSES FOR INFORMATION OR SERVICES DESIGNED TO MEET THE CHILD CARE NEEDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

(9) DOCUMENTATION AND TABULATION OF DATA PERTAINING TO PARENT REQUESTS, CONSUMER COMPLAINTS AND EMPLOYER-SPONSORED CHILD CARE SERVICES THAT WILL ASSIST IN COMMUNITY AND STATE PLANNING AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS.

(10) PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS RELATED TO CHILD DAY-CARE PROGRAMS AND REFERRAL OF DAY-CARE PROGRAMS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(11) ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES, WHERE NECESSARY, TO DEFRAY

1 THE COST OF SERVICES.

2 (12) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES THAT ENSURE THE
3 CONFIDENTIALITY OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS WHO UTILIZE THE
4 AGENCY'S SERVICES.

5 SECTION 6. REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

6 AN INTERIM REPORT THAT DESCRIBES THE FOUR DEMONSTRATION
7 PROGRAMS SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE CRITERIA THAT WILL
8 BE USED FOR A FINAL EVALUATION OF EACH PROGRAM SHALL BE
9 SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY JULY 1, 1989. A FINAL
10 REPORT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITHIN 30
11 MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT. THE REPORT SHALL
12 INCLUDE, ALONG WITH RECOMMENDATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT'S FINDINGS
13 RELATING TO NUMBERS OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN SERVED; EXTENT OF
14 ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO CAREGIVERS, PARENTS AND EMPLOYEES; COST OF
15 RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SERVICES; THE AVAILABILITY OF PRIVATE,
16 CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND
17 MAINTENANCE OF RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES; AND THE PROGRAM'S
18 IMPACT ON QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE IN A
19 GEOGRAPHICALLY DEFINED AREA.

20 SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

21 THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.