

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 2626 Session of  
1998

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SEYFERT, SEMMEL, GIGLIOTTI, BAKER, ROBERTS AND WASHINGTON,  
MAY 13, 1998

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
NOVEMBER 9, 1998

## AN ACT

1 Establishing the Youth Development Fund; providing for powers  
2 and duties of the Secretary of Community and Economic  
3 Development; providing for grants; requiring certain reports;  
4 and making an appropriation.

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 Youth  
9 Development Safe Communities Act.

10 Section 2. Legislative findings and purpose.

11 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

12 (1) The healthy development of children and youth into  
13 successful productive adult citizens of this Commonwealth  
14 requires a partnership of parents, families and local

1 communities, as well as State and local government.

2 (2) Pennsylvania is home to about 1.7 million children  
3 who are between six and 16 years of age. It has long been  
4 recognized that government in partnership with families and  
5 local communities must provide educational opportunities for  
6 our children.

7 (3) As society has changed, it is now time to recognize  
8 that this same partnership must be created to foster  
9 opportunities for our children and youth during the nonschool  
10 hours, particularly those hours following the end of the  
11 school day.

12 (4) As more parents have and are entering the work  
13 force, more school-age children and youth are left alone or  
14 unsupervised at the end of the school day. Tens of thousands  
15 of young people in this Commonwealth are home alone in the  
16 after-school hours.

17 (5) Constructive after-school activities and programs  
18 have been shown to assist children and youth in school  
19 achievement and performance, to develop life skills necessary  
20 to succeed at work and to advance their own healthy  
21 development to move successfully from childhood to adulthood.

22 (6) Communities are safer when young people have  
23 constructive after-school activities and programs that  
24 provide a positive alternative to television, drugs, alcohol,  
25 sexual activity and possible pregnancy, crime and gangs.

26 (7) The hours in which young people are most involved in  
27 delinquent behavior are those that occur after school,  
28 particularly between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

29 (8) Working parents are more productive when their  
30 children are involved in safe, dependable constructive

activities during the nonschool hours.

(9) Providing school-age children and youth with constructive activities on a regular basis has been shown to assist in producing better outcomes for young people and communities and contribute to decreasing teenage pregnancy and juvenile delinquency.

The purpose of this act is to recognize the shared responsibility of the public and private sectors to support regular, constructive programs for children and youth in the nonschool hours in order to foster the development of children and youth into constructive, productive citizens of this Commonwealth and to create new resources in support of such programs.

#### Section 3. 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:

"Department." The Department of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth.

"Fund." The Youth Development Fund established under this act.

"Secretary." The Secretary of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth.

"Youth development programs." Programs receiving grants under this act.

#### Section 4. Grant eligibility criteria.

(a) General rule.--Activities offered by eligible program sponsors may include, but are not limited to: homework tutoring and academic enrichment; arts and cultural activities; recreational and athletic activities; science and math

1 enrichment; computer and technology skills and life skills.

2 (b) Sponsors.--Programs for which local counties or home  
3 rule charter entities shall receive grants for local use must be  
4 sponsored by public or nonprofit organizations and must be  
5 available on a regular, daily basis during the nonschool hours,  
6 primarily 3 p.m. through 6 p.m. during the school year. Programs  
7 may also be offered for the full day during school holidays and  
8 vacations during the course of the year.

9 (c) Children and youth.--Children and youth who are between  
10 six and 16 years of age shall be eligible for the programs  
11 offered through the Youth Development Fund.

12 (d) Applicants.--Any Pennsylvania county or similar home  
13 rule charter entity shall be eligible to apply for grants to be  
14 made available under this act.

#### 15 Section 5. Establishment of Youth Development Fund.

16 The Youth Development Fund is hereby established in the State  
17 Treasury. The secretary shall utilize the fund to award grants  
18 to eligible program sponsors in order to provide constructive  
19 programs for eligible school-age children and youth on a  
20 regular, daily basis in the nonschool hours during the course of  
21 the school year.

#### 22 Section 6. Applications.

23 Applicants must complete an annual application for grants  
24 from the fund on a form prescribed by the secretary. The form  
25 shall include, but not be limited to:

26 (1) A detailed plan identifying specific activities for  
27 the programs receiving grants and their relationship to the  
28 purpose of the act and a timetable for the implementation and  
29 achievement of such with special attention to maximizing, to  
30 the extent possible, the utilization of existing resources of

1 the applicant, school districts, libraries and community  
2 agencies which have an immediate capacity for providing  
3 services and which can most effectively address the youth  
4 development needs of the eligible children and youth.

5 (2) A complete description of any required family fees  
6 for the program to be supported. Fees may not be a barrier to  
7 participation. Applications must provide that if fees are to  
8 be charged, they not exceed \$5 per week for children and  
9 youth living in communities in which more than 35% of the  
10 children are eligible for participation in the Federal school  
11 lunch program.

12 (3) A proposed budget and a description of the proposed  
13 use of the grant funds, including the mechanism for the  
14 distribution of these funds.

15 (4) The local share, as identified in section 8(b), to  
16 be used, which local shares may include existing resources  
17 available from the community, but may not result in the  
18 supplication of any local funds.

19 (5) A description of any costs associated with the  
20 administration of the program.

21 (6) At the conclusion of the fiscal year period, a  
22 program fiscal report indicating progress in meeting and  
23 achieving the detailed plan under paragraph (1). The report  
24 shall also be included in subsequent applications and past  
25 performance shall be taken into account in determining new  
26 applications.

## 27 Section 7. Appropriation.

28 The sum of \$15,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of  
29 Community and Economic Development on an ongoing basis and shall  
30 be transferred to the Youth Development Fund.

1 Section 8. Distribution of grants.

2 (a) General rule.--Grants from the fund shall be distributed  
3 equitably among successful applicants, with a base amount of  
4 \$50,000 available per applicant. The secretary shall distribute  
5 any remaining moneys to successful applicants that have  
6 submitted a qualifying application, using the following two  
7 factors:

8 (1) Population of children and youth in the county or  
9 home rule charter entity between six and 16 years of age, as  
10 determined by the census or an acceptable alternative method.

11 (2) Number of children and youth eligible for the school  
12 breakfast or lunch program. The secretary shall take into  
13 account these two factors, giving additional, appropriate  
14 weight in favor of communities in which a higher percentage  
15 of children and youth are eligible for the school breakfast  
16 or lunch program AND IN WHICH A SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS A MARKET <—  
17 VALUE PERSONAL INCOME AID RATIO OF .5000 OR GREATER.

18 (b) Matching funds.--Each applicant eligible to participate  
19 in youth development programs must also demonstrate that it is  
20 providing or will provide local community funds, public or  
21 private, equal to at least 20% of the amount it received under  
22 this act.

23 (c) Supplanting of local funds prohibited.--Grants made  
24 available under this act may not supplant local funds currently  
25 used to support allowable activities under the fund.

26 Section 9. Annual report to General Assembly.

27 The department shall submit an annual report to the General  
28 Assembly on the activities of the fund. The report shall  
29 include, but not be limited to, an overview of the programs  
30 funded and their utilization by children and youth,

1 recommendations for improvements to this act and legislative  
2 action if deemed necessary.  
3 Section 10. Effective date.  
4 This act shall take effect in 180 days.