

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 266 Session of  
1999

INTRODUCED BY KUKOVICH, HELFRICK, WAGNER, BELAN, LAVALLE, BELL,  
COSTA, STAPLETON, MUSTO, TARTAGLIONE, KASUNIC, CONTI, MELLOW,  
HUGHES, O'PAKE, WAUGH, SCHWARTZ AND STOUT, FEBRUARY 1, 1999

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 1, 1999

AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment, implementation and  
2 administration of a Head Start Supplemental Assistance  
3 Program.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Head Start  
8 Supplemental Assistance Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative findings.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) Project Head Start, a 33-year-old Federal program,  
12 has been successful in preparing low-income preschool  
13 children for integration into existing scholastic programs.

14 (2) By concentrating energies in the areas of education,  
15 health, social services and parental involvement, Project  
16 Head Start has prevented future social costs by correcting or  
17 detecting a problem at its earliest and most easily solved  
18 stage.

1           (3) Notwithstanding these outstanding achievements,  
2       Project Head Start is currently estimated to be reaching only  
3       55% of all eligible children within this Commonwealth.

4           (4) It is intended, through this legislative initiative,  
5       that a supplemental financial assistance program be  
6       established which will assist existing Head Start providers  
7       to expand facilities and Head Start services to care for  
8       additional eligible low-income children.

9       Section 3. Definitions.

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

13       "Department." The Department of Education of the  
14       Commonwealth.

15       Section 4. Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program.

16       (a) Establishment.--The department shall, after consultation  
17       with the Department of Public Welfare and the Department of  
18       Health, establish, implement and administer a program consistent  
19       with Federal Head Start standards to provide, by means of grants  
20       or the purchase of service contracts, supplemental financial  
21       assistance to the existing providers of Federal Head Start  
22       services to enable them to provide additional Head Start  
23       services to other eligible low-income children.

24       (b) Criteria.--The department, in awarding grants or  
25       entering into contracts with existing Head Start providers,  
26       shall apply the following criteria:

27           (1) The provider's ability to expand staff, space and  
28       services to accommodate additional children.

29           (2) The provider's ability to provide 20% of the  
30       approved costs of the programs or activities assisted under

1       this act from non-Federal and non-State sources. This 20%  
2       contribution may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated,  
3       including plant, equipment or services.

4           (3) The provider's past performance in providing a  
5       quality Head Start Program to its clients.

6           (4) The need for additional Head Start services in the  
7       provider's area, where need is to be determined by the  
8       percentage of eligible children who are not served in the  
9       area.

10   The department shall require the provider to meet the criteria  
11   under paragraphs (1) and (2) and shall balance such criteria by  
12   giving equal emphasis to each one.

13       (c) Administration.--The department shall award the grants  
14   or enter into contracts and may administer the Head Start  
15   Supplemental Assistance Program or may contract with the Federal  
16   regional office to administer the grant or contract with the  
17   existing Head Start provider.

18   Section 5. Amount of supplemental assistance.

19       The department shall not award grants or enter into purchase  
20   of service contracts in excess of \$5,000,000 for fiscal year  
21   1999-2000.

22   Section 6. Rules and regulations.

23       The department shall promulgate the rules and regulations  
24   that are necessary to establish, implement and administer the  
25   Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program.

26   Section 7. Expiration.

27       This act shall expire June 30, 2000.

28   Section 8. Effective date.

29       This act shall take effect in 60 days.