

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1073 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY PICCOLA, PILEGGI, BOSCOLA, EARLL, M. WHITE, WARD AND ERICKSON, AUGUST 19, 2009

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, AUGUST 19, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
 2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
 3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
 4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
 5 laws relating thereto," in early learning programs, further  
 6 providing for duties of department, for grant awards and for  
 7 duties of approved providers.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1513-D of the act of March 10, 1949  
 11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
 12 amended by adding a paragraph to read:

13 Section 1513-D. Duties of department.

14 The department shall have the following powers and duties:

15 \* \* \*

16 (8) (i) To establish a fee schedule for persons  
 17 enrolling in the program that are above the Head Start  
 18 and subsidized day-care income eligibility guidelines but  
 19 less than the eligibility criteria as defined by the  
 20 department. The fee schedule shall be published on the

1 department's Internet website and in the Pennsylvania  
2 Bulletin within 60 days of the effective date of this  
3 paragraph and shall be applied to program applicants  
4 beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

5 (ii) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to  
6 prevent the families of children who participate in early  
7 learning programs and who are willing and able to pay the  
8 full cost of such participation from doing so.

9 Section 2. Section 1514-D of the act, added July 20, 2007  
10 (P.L.278, No.45), is amended to read:

11 Section 1514-D. Grant awards.

12 The department shall award grants under this subarticle to  
13 the extent that funds are appropriated for the program by the  
14 General Assembly. The grants shall be awarded on a per-student  
15 basis for each eligible student served by an approved provider  
16 and shall not exceed the per-student cost of administering the  
17 approved provider's pre-kindergarten program. [To the greatest  
18 extent possible, the] The department shall:

19 (1) Give first priority in grant funding to approved  
20 providers serving [the highest number or the highest  
21 percentage of] at-risk eligible students as follows: first,  
22 those students on the waiting lists for Head Start authorized  
23 by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (Public Law  
24 97-35, 95 Stat. 357) and Child Care Works authorized by the  
25 act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public  
26 Welfare Code; and second, other students deemed eligible per  
27 the definitions in this article.

28 (2) To the extent possible:

29 (i) Give priority in grant funding to approved  
30 providers that received grant funds in the immediately

1 preceding school year, have met the program standards and  
2 have demonstrated satisfactory implementation of the  
3 program.

4 [(3)] (ii) Ensure that grant funding is  
5 geographically dispersed to approved providers throughout  
6 this Commonwealth.

7 Section 3. Section 1515-D(a) of the act is amended by adding  
8 a paragraph and the section is amended by adding a subsection to  
9 read:

10 Section 1515-D. Duties of approved providers.

11 (a) General rule.--An approved provider that receives grant  
12 funds under this subarticle shall have the following duties:

13 \* \* \*

14 (5) Verify the residency and income of applicants to the  
15 program through examination of any of the following:  
16 individual income tax Form 1040, W-2 forms, pay stubs, pay  
17 envelopes, written statements from employers or documentation  
18 showing current status as recipients of public assistance.

19 \* \* \*

20 (c) The department or the Auditor General may conduct such  
21 audits and reviews of the grant program as the department or the  
22 Auditor General determines to be necessary or appropriate.  
23 Copies of all audit reports or reviews conducted by the  
24 department or the Auditor General shall be made available to the  
25 chairman and minority chairman of the Education Committee of the  
26 Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Education  
27 Committee of the House of Representatives.

28 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.