

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 157 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, PIPPY, BROWNE, TARTAGLIONE, ERICKSON, FARNESE, WILLIAMS, WARD, BOSCOLA, COSTA, FERLO, HUGHES, BREWSTER, WASHINGTON, DINNIMAN, KITCHEN, GREENLEAF, KASUNIC, STACK, YUDICHAK, EARLL, BLAKE AND SOLOBAY, JANUARY 18, 2011

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 13, 2012

AN ACT

1 Establishing a task force within the Department of Education,
2 providing for its powers and duties and providing for
3 administrative support.

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

6 Section 1. Task force on homeless children's education.

7 (a) Establishment.--There is established within the
8 Department of Education a task force on homeless children's
9 education.

10 (b) Composition.--The task force shall be composed of the
11 following members:

12 (1) The Secretary of Education, who shall act as
13 chairperson of the task force.

14 (2) The Secretary of Public Welfare or a designee from
15 the Office of Children, Youth and Families.

16 (3) Twelve members to be appointed by the Secretary of

1 Education, within 30 days of the effective date of this act,
2 to include:

3 (i) Five representatives of local agencies assisting
4 homeless children and families, one each from
5 southwestern, northwestern, central, southeastern and
6 northeastern Pennsylvania.

7 (ii) Three representatives from the Commonwealth's
8 public schools, one of which shall be from a charter
9 school, representing urban, suburban and rural areas of
10 Pennsylvania.

11 (iii) Two representatives from Pennsylvania
12 intermediate units.

13 (iv) Two representatives from Pennsylvania social
14 services organizations or advocacy organizations with
15 experience working with homeless children and education
16 issues.

17 (c) Study.--The task force shall conduct a study of the
18 demographics and education of Pennsylvania's homeless child
19 population and their educational needs. The Department of
20 Education shall develop uniform forms and surveys necessary for
21 obtaining the information required for the study. IF THE
22 DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY COLLECTED THE DATA OR INFORMATION
23 REQUIRED, THE TASK FORCE SHALL INCORPORATE THE DATA OR
24 INFORMATION INTO THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D). The
25 study shall include:

26 (1) A demographic survey of homeless parents and
27 homeless youth.

28 (2) An assessment of the difficulties in providing
29 educational services to homeless students.

30 (3) An assessment of barriers to serving the needs of



1 preschool children experiencing homelessness, including
2 access to early intervention services.

3 (4) An assessment of successful strategies for serving
4 homeless students, including strategies for informing
5 parents, homeless shelters, students and school districts of
6 the educational services available to homeless students.

7 (5) An assessment of best practices used in other states
8 to educate homeless students.

9 (6) Recommendations regarding the collection and use of
10 data currently collected by the department.

11 (d) Report to the General Assembly.--The task force shall
12 issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the
13 Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Minority
14 Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of
16 Representatives, the chairman and minority chairman of the
17 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority
18 chairman of the Education Committee of the House of
19 Representatives. The initial report shall be submitted within 18
20 months of the effective date of this section. The report shall
21 be distributed to State and local agencies that work with
22 homeless children, as well as to all Pennsylvania school
23 districts.

24 (e) Meetings.--The task force shall meet at least once each
25 quarter and shall hold its first meeting within 60 days of the
26 effective date of this section.

27 (f) Compensation.--Task force members shall receive no
28 compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for all
29 necessary travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in
30 connection with the performance of their duties as members.

1 (g) Duties of department.--The Department of Education shall
2 provide administrative support, office space and any other
3 technical assistance required by the task force to carry out its
4 duties under this section, including access to all reports and
5 data required by the Federal Government to comply with Title I
6 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public
7 Law 89-10, 20 U.S.C. Ch. 63, et seq.) and McKinney-Vento
8 Homeless Assistance Act of 1986 (Public Law 100-77, 42 U.S.C. §
9 11301, et seq.).

10 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~ ←

11 SECTION 2. EXPIRATION. ←

12 THIS ACT SHALL EXPIRE TWO YEARS FOLLOWING THE EFFECTIVE DATE
13 OF THIS SECTION.

14 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

15 THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60 DAYS.