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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2204 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY SIMMONS, REED, MCGEEHAN, DAY, ROZZI, THOMAS,  
V. BROWN, DIGIROLAMO, JAMES, CALTAGIRONE, YOUNGBLOOD, WATSON,  
MILLARD, FRANKEL, BISHOP, KORTZ, ROCK, D. COSTA, C. HARRIS,  
HARHART, READSHAW, MILNE, PAINTER, AUMENT, PARKER, STURLA,  
MACKENZIE, DEAN, MIRABITO, O'BRIEN, KIM, D. MILLER AND  
HEFFLEY, MAY 5, 2014

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 5, 2014

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 19, 1990 (P.L.1372, No.212),  
2 entitled "An act providing for early intervention services  
3 for infants, toddlers and preschool children who qualify;  
4 establishing the Interagency Coordinating Council and  
5 providing for its powers and duties; and conferring powers  
6 and duties upon the Department of Education and the State  
7 Board of Education, the Department of Health and the  
8 Department of Public Welfare," further providing for  
9 definitions and for child identification, assessment and  
10 tracking system.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 103 of the act of December 19, 1990  
14 (P.L.1372, No.212), known as the Early Intervention Services  
15 System Act, is amended by adding a definition to read:

16 Section 103. Definitions.

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

20 \* \* \*

1 "Homeless." An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and  
2 adequate nighttime residence. The term includes:

3 (1) Children and youth in any of the following:

4 (i) Who are sharing the housing of another person  
5 due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar  
6 reason.

7 (ii) Who are living in a motel, hotel, trailer park  
8 or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative  
9 adequate accommodations.

10 (iii) Who are living in an emergency or transitional  
11 shelter.

12 (iv) Who are abandoned in a hospital.

13 (v) Who are awaiting foster care placement.

14 (vi) Who have a primary nighttime residence that is  
15 a public or a private place not designed for or  
16 ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for  
17 human beings.

18 (vii) Who are living in a car, park, public space,  
19 abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train  
20 station or similar setting.

21 (2) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the  
22 purposes of this chapter because the child is living in one  
23 of the circumstances in paragraph (1).

24 \* \* \*

25 Section 2. Section 305(b) of the act is amended to read:

26 Section 305. Child identification, assessment and tracking  
27 system.

28 \* \* \*

29 (b) At-risk children.--For the purposes of child  
30 identification, assessment and tracking for infants and

1 toddlers, the Department of Public Welfare shall establish, by  
2 regulation, population groups to be included in these  
3 activities. The population groups shall include, but not be  
4 limited to, children whose birth weight is under 1,500 grams;  
5 children cared for in neonatal intensive care units of  
6 hospitals; children born to chemically dependent mothers and  
7 referred by a physician, health care provider or parent;  
8 children who are seriously abused or neglected, as substantiated  
9 and referred by the county children and youth agency under the  
10 act of November 26, 1975 (P.L.438, No.124), known as the Child  
11 Protective Services Law; [and] children with confirmed dangerous  
12 levels of lead poisoning as set by the Department of Health; and  
13 children who are homeless. The Department of Public Welfare may  
14 establish other population groups by regulation as it deems  
15 necessary.

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.