
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2086 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TOOHIL, SCHLOSSBERG, ACOSTA, BARRAR, BOBACK,
V. BROWN, BULLOCK, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
CUTLER, DAVIDSON, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, FARINA, GIBBONS,
KAUFER, KILLION, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MATZIE, MCCLINTON,
McNEILL, MOUL, MURT, O'BRIEN, PICKETT, REGAN, ROZZI,
SCHWEYER, STEPHENS, THOMAS, WARD, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD,
MAY 23, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MAY 23, 2016

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," in general provisions, further
9 providing for definitions; and, in Statewide system for
10 provision of early intervention services, further providing
11 for child identification, assessment and tracking system.

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

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

17 Section 103. Definitions.

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

1 * * *

2 "Postpartum depression." A major depressive episode with an
3 onset in pregnancy or within one year of the birth of a child.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. Section 305 of the act, amended October 14, 2014
6 (P.L.2500, No.143), is amended to read:

7 Section 305. Child identification, assessment and tracking
8 system.

9 (a) Development of system.--The Department of [Public
10 Welfare] Human Services, the Department of Education and the
11 Department of Health shall develop a Statewide system for
12 eligible child identification, assessment and tracking. This
13 system shall be developed and coordinated by the agencies to
14 assure that the system is compatible with the child-find system
15 as required by Part B.

16 (b) At-risk children.--For the purposes of child
17 identification, assessment and tracking for infants and
18 toddlers, the Department of [Public Welfare] Human Services
19 shall establish, by regulation, population groups to be included
20 in these activities. The population groups shall include, but
21 not be limited to, children whose birth weight is under 1,500
22 grams; children cared for in neonatal intensive care units of
23 hospitals; children born to chemically dependent mothers and
24 referred by a physician, health care provider or parent;
25 children who are seriously abused or neglected, as substantiated
26 and referred by the county children and youth agency under the
27 act of November 26, 1975 (P.L.438, No.124), known as the Child
28 Protective Services Law; children with confirmed dangerous
29 levels of lead poisoning as set by the Department of Health;
30 [and] children who are homeless[.]; and children who have a

1 parent that is either at high risk for or is diagnosed as having
2 postpartum depression and who are referred by a physician,
3 health care provider or parent. The Department of [Public
4 Welfare] Human Services may establish other population groups by
5 regulation as it deems necessary.

6 (c) Components of system.--The system shall include, but
7 need not be limited to, the provision of the following
8 activities and services:

9 (1) The identification of eligible children and referral
10 to early intervention services as soon after birth as
11 possible.

12 (2) Referral services for families of eligible children.

13 (3) Continuing assessment of at-risk children from birth
14 through age of beginners.

15 (4) A description of agencies providing early
16 intervention services and the services provided by each
17 agency.

18 (5) Pertinent information regarding the exit of the
19 child from early intervention services.

20 (6) The orderly transfer of the accumulated information
21 to the appropriate provider upon the child's attainment of
22 age of beginners, except if the child has met exit criteria
23 contained in this act.

24 (d) Confidentiality.--Proper measures shall be developed and
25 implemented to assure the confidentiality of the data contained
26 in the system. Information shall be accessed only by appropriate
27 staff of the Department of [Public Welfare] Human Services, the
28 Department of Education and the Department of Health, including
29 the staff of each agency's local entities, such as county mental
30 health and mental retardation offices, school districts and

1 intermediate units, which are responsible for the provision of
2 services either directly or through subcontract to private
3 providers. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude the
4 utilization of data to provide for the preparation of reports,
5 fiscal information or other documents required by this act or
6 the Education of the Handicapped Act; but no information may be
7 used in a manner which would allow for the identification of an
8 individual child or family.

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.