
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2612 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY TOOHL, HILL-EVANS, BOBACK, HOHENSTEIN, MURT,
ROZZI AND POLINCHOCK, JUNE 23, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 23, 2020

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 fostering independence through
6 education, further providing for fostering independence
7 waiver program.

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

10 Section 1. Section 2602-K(b) and (c) of the act of March 10,
11 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
12 amended November 27, 2019 (P.L.662, No.91), are amended and the
13 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

14 Section 2602-K. Fostering independence waiver program.

15 * * *

16 (b) Award.--Beginning with the semester starting in the fall
17 of 2020, each institution of higher education shall award a
18 fostering independence waiver for undergraduate courses at the
19 institution for each individual who is eligible under subsection
20 (c). The fostering independence waiver shall have subtracted

1 from it the amount of any Federal grants, State grants or other
2 scholarships or grants the individual receives[.] after applying
3 the Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant under the
4 Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169, 113
5 Stat. 1822), as administered by the Department of Human
6 Services, to room and board costs. An individual shall receive a
7 fostering independence waiver under this article for five years,
8 whether or not consecutive, or until the individual reaches 26
9 years of age, whichever occurs first, provided that the
10 individual remains eligible under subsection (c).

11 (c) Eligibility.--In order to receive a fostering
12 independence waiver under this section, an individual must be a
13 current resident of this Commonwealth and eligible for the
14 Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant Program under
15 the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 [(Public Law 106-169,
16 113 Stat. 1822)] as administered by the Department of Human
17 Services and must have applied for all available Federal and
18 State grants.

19 * * *

20 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
21 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
22 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

23 "Room and board." Food, utilities and lodging in a
24 residential unit, residential hall or other housing facility,
25 which an institution of higher education provides to an
26 individual who is enrolled at the institution of higher
27 education, for a fee or in exchange for specified duties or
28 services.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.