
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1046 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY ROZZI, BULLOCK, KENYATTA, SCHLOSSBERG, HOWARD,
N. NELSON, SANCHEZ, DELLOSO, FREEMAN, KINSEY, McNEILL,
DAVIDSON, HOHENSTEIN, FRANKEL, HILL-EVANS, LEE, MADDEN,
SCHWEYER AND RABB, MARCH 31, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 31, 2021

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 preliminary provisions, providing
6 for homeless youth at institutions of higher education; and,
7 in fostering independence through education, providing for
8 housing priority.

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

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

14 Section 129. Homeless Youth at Institutions of Higher
15 Education.--(a) Each institution of higher education that
16 maintains student housing facilities shall give priority for
17 housing to current and former homeless youth. The following
18 shall apply:

19 (1) Each institution of higher education that maintains
20 student housing facilities open for occupation during school

1 breaks or on a year-round basis shall give first priority to
2 current and former homeless youth for residence in the housing
3 facilities that are open for uninterrupted year-round occupation
4 and provide housing to current and former homeless youth at no
5 extra cost during academic or campus breaks and next give
6 priority to current and former homeless youth for housing that
7 is open for occupation during the most days in the calendar
8 year.

9 (2) Each institution of higher education shall develop a
10 plan to ensure that current and former homeless youth can access
11 housing resources as needed during and between academic terms,
12 including during academic and campus breaks, regardless of
13 whether the campus maintains student housing facilities.

14 (b) An institution of higher education shall develop a rapid
15 rehousing program to assist current and former homeless youth
16 enrolled at the institution of higher education to provide
17 navigation services on the institution of higher education's
18 campus to conduct outreach and assessment and connect current
19 and former homeless youth with housing and other related
20 services.

21 (c) An institution of higher education shall designate a
22 staff member who is employed in the financial aid office, or
23 another appropriate office or department as determined by the
24 institution of higher education, to serve as a homeless youth
25 liaison. The homeless youth liaison shall be responsible for
26 understanding the financial aid process and identifying services
27 available and appropriate for current and former homeless youth
28 enrolled at the institution of higher education. The homeless
29 youth liaison shall assist current and former homeless youth in
30 applying for and receiving Federal and State financial aid and

1 other available services.

2 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an
3 institution of higher education may grant resident status to a
4 student who resides in this Commonwealth and is nineteen (19)
5 years of age or under at the time of enrollment, regardless of
6 how long the student has lived in this Commonwealth, if the
7 student is determined to be a homeless youth at any time during
8 the four years immediately preceding the student's enrollment.

9 (e) An institution of higher education shall provide tuition
10 waivers for current and former homeless youth. The following
11 shall apply:

12 (1) A current or former homeless youth shall be exempt from
13 paying any tuition at an institution of higher education,
14 regardless of the current or former homeless youth's receipt of
15 a scholarship or grant if:

16 (i) The current or former homeless youth is enrolled at the
17 institution of higher education on or before the date that the
18 current or former homeless youth reaches twenty-five (25) years
19 of age.

20 (ii) The current or former homeless youth is enrolled as a
21 candidate in a degree program.

22 (iii) The current or former homeless youth has filed for
23 Federal and State financial aid.

24 (2) If a current or former homeless youth receives a
25 scholarship or grant for postsecondary education and is enrolled
26 before the recipient reaches twenty-five (25) years of age as a
27 candidate in a degree program at an institution of higher
28 education, the scholarship or grant shall be applied to the
29 tuition for the current or former homeless youth before applying
30 a waiver under this section to the tuition.

1 (3) A current or former homeless youth who is exempt from
2 tuition under this subsection shall continue to be exempt until
3 the earlier of:

4 (i) five years after first enrolling as a candidate for a
5 degree program at an institution of higher education; or

6 (ii) the date that the current or former homeless youth is
7 awarded a degree.

8 (4) On or before June 1 of each year, an institution of
9 higher education shall report to the board on the aggregate and
10 disaggregate number of current or former homeless youth who:

11 (i) Received a tuition exemption under this subsection
12 during the prior academic year.

13 (ii) Received a tuition exemption under this subsection at
14 any point during the current or former homeless youth's
15 enrollment at the institution of higher education.

16 (iii) Earned a degree from the institution of higher
17 education during the prior academic year.

18 (5) On or before September 1 of each year, the board shall:

19 (i) Compile the reports received under paragraph (3).

20 (ii) Submit the compilation of reports to the General
21 Assembly.

22 (f) For purposes of this section, a student who is verified
23 as a former homeless youth under subsection (g) shall retain
24 that status for a period of six (6) years from the date of
25 admission to an institution of higher education.

26 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
27 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
28 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

29 "Homeless youth." An individual under twenty-five (25) years
30 of age, who has been verified, in the case of a former homeless

1 youth, at any time during the twenty-four (24) months
2 immediately preceding the receipt of the student's application
3 for admission by an institution of higher education, as an
4 unaccompanied youth, under the McKinney-Vento Homeless
5 Assistance Act (Public Law 100-77, 101 Stat. 482), by at least
6 one of the following:

7 (1) A homeless assistance program, as defined by the
8 Department of Human Services.

9 (2) The director, or the director's designee, of a Federal
10 TRIO program or a Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for
11 Undergraduate Programs program.

12 (3) A financial aid administrator.

13 (4) A designated homeless youth liaison or McKinney-Vento
14 coordinator in a school district or the Department of Education.

15 "Institution of higher education." As defined in section
16 118(c).

17 Section 2602.1-K. Housing priority.

18 (a) Housing.--Each institution of higher education that
19 maintains student housing facilities open for occupation during
20 school breaks or on a year-round basis shall give first priority
21 to individuals eligible under section 2602-K(c) for residence in
22 the housing facilities that are open for uninterrupted year-
23 round occupation and provide housing to individuals eligible
24 under section 2602-K(c) at no extra cost during academic or
25 campus breaks and next give priority to individuals eligible
26 under section 2602-K(c) for housing that is open for occupation
27 during the most days in the calendar year.

28 (b) Plans.--Each institution of higher education shall
29 develop a plan to ensure that individuals eligible under section
30 2602-K(c) can access housing resources as needed during and

1 between academic terms, including during academic and campus
2 breaks, regardless of whether the campus maintains student
3 housing facilities.

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