

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2400 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY MEHAFFIE, SOLOMON, CIRESI, A. DAVIS, FREEMAN, GUZMAN, HARKINS, HELM, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, MADDEN, NEILSON, OTTEN, SANCHEZ, SAPPEY, TOPPER AND D. WILLIAMS, MARCH 8, 2022

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in departmental powers and
4 duties as to supervision, providing for Keystone STARS
5 Program; and, in departmental powers and duties as to
6 licensing, further providing for fees and, PROVIDING FOR <--
7 KEYSTONE STARS PROGRAM AND FURTHER PROVIDING for definition.

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

10 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
11 as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to
12 read:

13 Section 923. Keystone STARS Program.--(a) Each certified
14 child care provider in the Keystone STARS Program may:

15 (1) Denote on its publicly accessible Internet website, if
16 operational, its designated STAR-level rating, which shall
17 include how many STARS that the certified child care provider
18 has received.

19 (2) Provide, in a linguistically appropriate manner, the

1 certified child care provider's STAR-level rating and the
2 publicly accessible Internet website of the department that
3 includes information on the Keystone STARS Program in writing to
4 a parent or legal guardian at the time of application.

5 (3) Obtain a department-issued placard that denotes the
6 certified child care provider's participation in the Keystone
7 STARS Program and designated STAR-level rating, which may be
8 displayed in a public-facing location.

9 (b) The department shall be responsible for issuing placards
10 to program participants in conformance with the following:

11 (1) The placards shall be clear, visible, readable and
12 linguistically appropriate.

13 (2) The placards shall include the following information:

14 (i) The name of the certified child care provider.

15 (ii) The name of the department.

16 (iii) The date that the department issued the placard.

17 (iv) The number of STARS that the certified child care
18 provider has received.

19 (v) The address, telephone number, publicly accessible
20 Internet website that includes information on the Keystone STARS
21 Program and e-mail address of the department.

22 (c) The department shall issue guidance that establishes a
23 Keystone STARS rubric which provides a pathway for a certified
24 child care provider that chooses to participate in the Keystone
25 STARS Program to move up a STAR level by permitting appropriate <--
26 work experience in lieu of formal educational credentials when
27 hiring employees to count DEMONSTRATION OF A COMBINATION OF <--
28 STAFF QUALIFICATIONS, WORK EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL
29 DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM
30 ACTIVITIES, PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AND

1 EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT when applying for
2 additional STARS.

3 ~~Section 2. Sections 1006 and 1051 of the act are amended to~~ <--
4 ~~read:~~

5 (D) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES <--
6 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION:

7 "CERTIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDER" MEANS:

8 (1) A CHILD CARE CENTER OR FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME CERTIFIED
9 OR LICENSED UNDER ARTICLE X.

10 (2) A PROVIDER CERTIFIED OR LICENSED TO PROVIDE CHILD CARE
11 UNDER ARTICLE IX.

12 "KEYSTONE STARS" MEANS THE STANDARDS, TRAINING AND
13 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, ASSISTANCE, RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS
14 (STARS) USED IN THE COMMONWEALTH'S QUALITY RATING AND
15 IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM FOR CERTIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

16 "STAR" MEANS A LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE RATING FOR EARLY LEARNING
17 PROGRAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE KEYSTONE STARS PROGRAM THAT
18 ASSESSES STAFF EDUCATION, LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, LEADERSHIP AND
19 MANAGEMENT AND FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.

20 SECTION 2. SECTION 1006 OF THE ACT IS AMENDED TO READ:

21 Section 1006. Fees.--Annual licenses shall be issued when
22 the proper fee, if required, is received by the department and
23 all the other conditions prescribed in this act are met. For
24 personal care homes, the fee shall be an application fee. The
25 fees shall be:

Facility	Annual Fee
Adult day care center	\$ 15
Mental health establishment	50
Personal care home-- 0 - 20 beds	15
-- 21 - 50 beds	20

1 -- 51 - 100 beds 30

2 --101 beds and above 50

3 No fee shall be required for the annual license in the case of
4 [day] child care centers, family child care homes, boarding
5 homes for children or for public or nonprofit mental
6 institutions.

7 SECTION 3. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ: <--

8 SECTION 1019. KEYSTONE STARS PROGRAM.--(A) EACH CERTIFIED
9 CHILD CARE PROVIDER IN THE KEYSTONE STARS PROGRAM MAY:

10 (1) DENOTE ON ITS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE, IF
11 OPERATIONAL, ITS DESIGNATED STAR-LEVEL RATING, WHICH SHALL
12 INCLUDE HOW MANY STARS THAT THE CERTIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDER
13 HAS RECEIVED.

14 (2) PROVIDE, IN A LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE MANNER, THE
15 CERTIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDER'S STAR-LEVEL RATING AND THE
16 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT
17 INCLUDES INFORMATION ON THE KEYSTONE STARS PROGRAM IN WRITING TO
18 A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION.

19 (3) OBTAIN A DEPARTMENT-ISSUED PLACARD THAT DENOTES THE
20 CERTIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE KEYSTONE
21 STARS PROGRAM AND DESIGNATED STAR-LEVEL RATING, WHICH MAY BE
22 DISPLAYED IN A PUBLIC-FACING LOCATION.

23 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING PLACARDS
24 TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

25 (1) THE PLACARDS SHALL BE CLEAR, VISIBLE, READABLE AND
26 LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE.

27 (2) THE PLACARDS SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

28 (I) THE NAME OF THE CERTIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDER.

29 (II) THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT.

30 (III) THE DATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED THE PLACARD.

1 (IV) THE NUMBER OF STARS THAT THE CERTIFIED CHILD CARE
2 PROVIDER HAS RECEIVED.

3 (V) THE ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE
4 INTERNET WEBSITE THAT INCLUDES INFORMATION ON THE KEYSTONE STARS
5 PROGRAM AND E-MAIL ADDRESS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

6 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE GUIDANCE THAT ESTABLISHES A
7 KEYSTONE STARS RUBRIC WHICH PROVIDES A PATHWAY FOR A CERTIFIED
8 CHILD CARE PROVIDER THAT CHOOSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE KEYSTONE
9 STARS PROGRAM TO MOVE UP A STAR LEVEL BY PERMITTING APPROPRIATE
10 DEMONSTRATION OF A COMBINATION OF STAFF QUALIFICATIONS, WORK
11 EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD
12 EDUCATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES, PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND
13 COMMUNITIES AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT WHEN
14 APPLYING FOR ADDITIONAL STARS.

15 (D) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES
16 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION:

17 "CERTIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDER" MEANS:

18 (1) A CHILD CARE CENTER OR FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME CERTIFIED
19 OR LICENSED UNDER ARTICLE X.

20 (2) A PROVIDER CERTIFIED OR LICENSED TO PROVIDE CHILD CARE
21 UNDER ARTICLE IX.

22 "KEYSTONE STARS" MEANS THE STANDARDS, TRAINING AND
23 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, ASSISTANCE, RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS
24 (STARS) USED IN THE COMMONWEALTH'S QUALITY RATING AND
25 IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM FOR CERTIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

26 "STAR" MEANS A LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE RATING FOR EARLY LEARNING
27 PROGRAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE KEYSTONE STARS PROGRAM THAT
28 ASSESSES STAFF EDUCATION, LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, LEADERSHIP AND
29 MANAGEMENT AND FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.

30 SECTION 4. SECTION 1051 OF THE ACT IS AMENDED TO READ:

1 Section 1051. Definition.--As used in this subarticle--
2 "Private institution" means any of the following facilities
3 by whatever term known and irrespective of the age group served:
4 Mental hospital, institution for the mentally defective, [day]
5 child care center, nursing home, hospital, personal care home,
6 assisted living residence and other similar institution which is
7 operated for profit and which requires a license issued by the
8 department.

9 Section 3 5. This act shall take effect in 180 days. <--