

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 120 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, KINSEY, SANCHEZ, MADDEN, GUENST, KAZEEM, HOHENSTEIN, PROBST, KINKEAD AND HOWARD, MARCH 7, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, MARCH 7, 2023

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 school safety and security,
 6 providing for COVID-19 pandemic trauma-informed education
 7 grants for 2023-2024 school year; and making an
 8 appropriation.

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 1319-B. COVID-19 pandemic trauma-informed education
 15 grants for 2023-2024 school year.

16 (a) Legislative findings.--The General Assembly finds and
 17 declares as follows:

18 (1) The COVID-19 pandemic inflicted trauma on many
 19 students.

20 (2) It is necessary to provide instruction and mental
 21 and behavioral health supports through trauma-informed

1 approaches for the purpose of improving the social and
2 emotional well-being of students and fostering a nurturing
3 learning environment.

4 (b) Appropriation.--In addition to any other money
5 appropriated to the committee for grants under this article, the
6 sum of \$50,000,000 is appropriated to the committee from the
7 General Fund to make grants under this section. The
8 appropriation under this subsection shall not lapse.

9 (c) Compliance and monitoring.--The committee shall monitor
10 grant recipients under this section to ensure appropriate use of
11 grant money and compliance with Federal guidelines and
12 regulations and the provisions of this section.

13 (d) Purpose of grants.--The committee shall provide grants
14 under this section to each qualifying school entity for the
15 specific purpose under section 1306-B(j) (20), (21) or (22).

16 (e) Amount of grants.--

17 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), the amount
18 of a grant awarded to a qualifying school entity shall not be
19 less than \$20,000.

20 (2) The committee may award an additional grant amount
21 to a qualifying school entity with a large student population
22 or a qualifying school entity with a high level of student
23 poverty in accordance with the guidelines developed under
24 subsection (h).

25 (f) Availability of applications.--The committee shall
26 notify and make applications available for grants under this
27 section to each school entity within 60 days of the effective
28 date of this section. The application requirements shall include
29 the school entity's contact information and specific purpose for
30 the grant under section 1306-B(j) (20), (21) or (22) and any

1 other requirements specified by the committee in the guidelines
2 developed under subsection (h).

3 (g) Deadlines for applications.--A school entity must submit
4 an application for grant money under this section no later than
5 30 days after the committee makes the application available
6 under subsection (f).

7 (h) Guidelines.--The committee shall develop guidelines to
8 implement this section to ensure the appropriate use of grant
9 money.

10 (i) Definitions.--As used in this section, the term "school
11 entity" means a public school, charter school, area career and
12 technical school or nonpublic school. The term does not include
13 a cyber charter school.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.