

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2204 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY SIMMONS, REED, MCGEEHAN, DAY, ROZZI, THOMAS,
V. BROWN, DIGIROLAMO, JAMES, CALTAGIRONE, YOUNGBLOOD, WATSON,
MILLARD, FRANKEL, BISHOP, KORTZ, ROCK, D. COSTA, C. HARRIS,
HARHART, READSHAW, MILNE, PAINTER, AUMENT, PARKER, STURLA,
MACKENZIE, DEAN, MIRABITO, O'BRIEN, KIM, D. MILLER, HEFFLEY,
COHEN, MURT AND CUTLER, MAY 5, 2014

SENATOR VULAKOVICH, AGING AND YOUTH, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, JUNE
10, 2014

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," further providing for
9 definitions and for child identification, assessment and
10 tracking system; AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION. <--

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

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

16 Section 103. Definitions.

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

1 * * *

2 "Homeless." An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and
3 adequate nighttime residence. The term includes:

4 (1) Children and youth in any of the following:

5 (i) Who are sharing the housing of another person
6 due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar
7 reason.

8 (ii) Who are living in a motel, hotel, trailer park
9 or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative
10 adequate accommodations.

11 (iii) Who are living in an emergency or transitional
12 shelter.

13 (iv) Who are abandoned in a hospital.

14 (v) Who are awaiting foster care placement.

15 (vi) Who have a primary nighttime residence that is
16 a public or a private place not designed for or
17 ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for
18 human beings.

19 (vii) Who are living in a car, park, public space,
20 abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train
21 station or similar setting.

22 (2) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the
23 purposes of this chapter because the child is living in one
24 of the circumstances in paragraph (1).

25 * * *

26 Section 2. Section 305(b) of the act is amended to read:
27 Section 305. Child identification, assessment and tracking
28 system.

29 * * *

30 (b) At-risk children.--For the purposes of child

1 identification, assessment and tracking for infants and
2 toddlers, the Department of Public Welfare shall establish, by
3 regulation, population groups to be included in these
4 activities. The population groups shall include, but not be
5 limited to, children whose birth weight is under 1,500 grams;
6 children cared for in neonatal intensive care units of
7 hospitals; children born to chemically dependent mothers and
8 referred by a physician, health care provider or parent;
9 children who are seriously abused or neglected, as substantiated
10 and referred by the county children and youth agency under the
11 act of November 26, 1975 (P.L.438, No.124), known as the Child
12 Protective Services Law; [and] children with confirmed dangerous
13 levels of lead poisoning as set by the Department of Health; and
14 children who are homeless. The Department of Public Welfare may
15 establish other population groups by regulation as it deems
16 necessary.

17 * * *

18 SECTION 3. THE SUM OF \$640,000, OR AS MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE <--
19 NECESSARY, IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
20 WELFARE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014, TO JUNE 30, 2015, FOR
21 THE PROVISION OF EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES TO HOMELESS INFANTS
22 AND TODDLERS.

23 Section 3 4. This act shall take effect immediately. <--