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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2288 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY BENHAM, SCHLOSSBERG, RABB, HOHENSTEIN, HILL-EVANS,  
SANCHEZ, INNAMORATO, FRANKEL, SHUSTERMAN, PASHINSKI, KINSEY,  
MADDEN, GUENST, KENYATTA, BULLOCK, DELLOSO, FITZGERALD,  
KRAJEWSKI, N. NELSON, SIMS AND GUZMAN, JANUARY 27, 2022

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 27, 2022

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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 definitions, for fostering  
7 independence waiver program, for outreach and for report.

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

10 Section 1. Section 2601-K of the act of March 10, 1949  
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
12 amended by adding definitions to read:

13 Section 2601-K. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
15 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
16 context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 \* \* \*

18 "Kinship care." The care of a child by a relative or other  
19 kinship caregiver of the child who has an established

1 relationship with the child when the biological or custodial  
2 parents of the child cannot care for the child.

3 "Kinship caregiver." An individual who has an established  
4 relationship with a child and assumes legal responsibility for  
5 the child. The term includes any of the following:

6 (1) A grandparent of the child.

7 (2) An aunt or uncle of the child.

8 (3) A family friend of the child.

9 (4) Any other relative or individual that legally  
10 assumes responsibility for the child.

11 \* \* \*

12 Section 2. Sections 2602-K(c) and 2603-K(b) (2) and (3) of  
13 the act are amended to read:

14 Section 2602-K. Fostering independence waiver program.

15 \* \* \*

16 (c) Eligibility.--In order to receive a fostering  
17 independence waiver under this section, an individual must [be a  
18 current resident of this Commonwealth and eligible for the  
19 Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant Program under  
20 the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169,  
21 113 Stat. 1822) as administered by the Department of Human  
22 Services and must have applied for all available Federal and  
23 State grants.]:

24 (1) Be a current resident of this Commonwealth.

25 (2) Be either of the following:

26 (i) Eligible for the Pennsylvania Chafee Education  
27 and Training Grant Program under the Foster Care  
28 Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169, 113 Stat.  
29 1822) as administered by the Department of Human  
30 Services.

1           (ii) Under the care of a kinship caregiver and would  
2           have been eligible for the Pennsylvania Chafee Education  
3           and Training Grant Program if not under kinship care.

4           (3) Have applied for all available Federal and State  
5           grants.

6           \* \* \*

7 Section 2603-K. Outreach.

8           \* \* \*

9           (b) Duties of institutions of higher education.--Each  
10 institution of higher education shall do all of the following:

11           \* \* \*

12           (2) Disseminate the information prepared under  
13 subsection (a) (1) to recipients of a Pennsylvania Chafee  
14 Education and Training Grant under the Foster Care  
15 Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169, 113 Stat. 1822)  
16 who are individuals eligible under section 2602-K(c) and all  
17 other individuals who are eligible under section 2602-K(c)  
18 and post the information prepared under subsection (a) (1) on  
19 the institution's publicly accessible Internet website.

20           (3) To improve retention, report to the department by  
21 June 30, 2021, and June 30 each year thereafter all of the  
22 following:

23           (i) The number of students receiving a Pennsylvania  
24 Chafee Education and Training Grant under the Foster Care  
25 Independence Act of 1999.

26           (ii) The number of students who apply for the  
27 program.

28           (iii) The number of students participating in the  
29 program.

30           (iv) The retention rates of students participating

1 in the program.

2 (v) The number of students who are participating in  
3 the program and have unmet financial need.

4 (vi) Recommendations on how to improve outreach to  
5 students who are or are potentially eligible for the  
6 program.

7 (vii) Recommendations on ways in which to improve  
8 the delivery of services to students who are eligible  
9 under section 2602-K(c).

10 (viii) Impediments to retaining students who are  
11 eligible under section 2602-K(c).

12 (ix) The number of students in kinship care who are  
13 participating in the program.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 3. Section 2605-K of the act is amended by adding a  
16 paragraph to read:

17 Section 2605-K. Report.

18 In order to determine and maximize the effectiveness of this  
19 article, the department, in conjunction with the Department of  
20 Human Services, shall collect information provided from  
21 institutions of higher education under section 2603-K(b)(3) and  
22 prepare an anonymized report to be submitted by August 31, 2021,  
23 and by August 31 of each year thereafter, to the chair and  
24 minority chair of the Education Committee of the Senate, the  
25 chair and minority chair of the Education Committee of the House  
26 of Representatives, the chair and minority chair of the Health  
27 and Human Services Committee of the Senate and the chair and  
28 minority chair of the Children and Youth Committee of the House  
29 of Representatives that contains all of the following:

30 \* \* \*

1           (9) The number of students in kinship care who are  
2           participating in the program.

3           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.