

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 668 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY BENHAM, ORTITAY, PASHINSKI, WAXMAN, PROBST, HOWARD, SCHLOSSBERG, BURGOS, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, CERRATO, ROZZI, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, PARKER, OTTEN, KRAJEWSKI, FLEMING, GREEN, KAZEEM AND TAKAC, MARCH 23, 2023

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 26, 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 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 kinship caregiver
19 when the biological or custodial parents of the child cannot

1 care for the child.

2 "Kinship caregiver." An individual who:

3 (1) is at least 21 years of age; and

4 (2) lives with and has legal responsibility for a child.

5 * * *

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

8 Section 2602-K. Fostering independence waiver program.

9 * * *

10 (c) Eligibility.--In order to receive a fostering
11 independence waiver under this section, an individual must [be a
12 current resident of this Commonwealth and eligible for the
13 Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant Program under
14 the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169,
15 113 Stat. 1822) as administered by the Department of Human
16 Services and must have applied for all available Federal and
17 State grants.]:

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

19 (2) Be either of the following:

20 (i) Eligible for the Chafee Education and Training
21 Grant Program.

22 (ii) Under the care of a kinship caregiver, ELIGIBLE <--
23 FOR A PELL GRANT and would have been eligible for the
24 Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant Program
25 if not under kinship care.

26 (3) Have applied for all available Federal and State
27 grants.

28 * * *

29 Section 2603-K. Outreach.

30 * * *

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

3 * * *

4 (2) Disseminate the information prepared under
5 subsection (a) (1) to recipients of a [Pennsylvania Chafee
6 Education and Training Grant under the Foster Care
7 Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169, 113 Stat.
8 1822)] grant under the Chafee Education and Training Grant
9 Program who are individuals eligible under section 2602-K(c)
10 and all other individuals who are eligible under section
11 2602-K(c) and post the information prepared under subsection
12 (a) (1) on the institution's publicly accessible Internet
13 website.

14 (3) To improve retention, report to the department by
15 June 30, 2021, and June 30 each year thereafter all of the
16 following:

17 (i) The number of students receiving a [Pennsylvania
18 Chafee Education and Training Grant under the Foster Care
19 Independence Act of 1999] grant under the Chafee
20 Education and Training Grant Program.

21 (ii) The number of students who apply for the
22 program.

23 (iii) The number of students participating in the
24 program.

25 (iv) The retention rates of students participating
26 in the program.

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

29 (vi) Recommendations on how to improve outreach to
30 students who are or are potentially eligible for the

1 program.

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

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

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

9 * * *

10 Section 3. Section 2605-K(1) of the act is amended and the
11 section is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

12 Section 2605-K. Report.

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

25 (1) The number of students receiving a [Pennsylvania
26 Chafee Education and Training Grant under the Foster Care
27 Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169, 113 Stat.
28 1822)] grant under the Chafee Education and Training Grant
29 Program.

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, 2023, OR
4 IMMEDIATELY, WHICHEVER IS LATER.

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