

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 756 Session of 2005

INTRODUCED BY MANN, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF,
 CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CRAHALLA, DALEY, DeWEESE, FRANKEL,
 SAMUELSON, STURLA, WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD, LEDERER, O'NEILL,
 STABACK, TIGUE, WHEATLEY, GEORGE AND MUNDY, MARCH 14, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 14, 2005

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," further providing for kindergartens
 6 and for the definition of "compulsory school age."

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

9 Section 1. Section 503 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
 10 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, amended
 11 September 21, 1959 (P.L.925, No.373) and October 21, 1965
 12 (P.L.601, No.312), is amended to read:

13 Section 503. Kindergartens.--(a) The board of school
 14 directors in [any school district may] all school districts
 15 shall establish and maintain kindergartens [for children between
 16 the ages of four and six years. When established, the].
 17 Districts may establish age policy but may not deny kindergarten
 18 to any child who is five years of age or older on the first day
 19 of the school year. The kindergartens shall be an integral part

1 of the elementary school system of the district, and be kept
2 open for not less than two and one-half hours each day for the
3 full school term as provided in section 1501.

4 (b) The number of kindergartens in any one district shall be
5 fixed by the board of school directors, and shall be open during
6 the school year. Kindergartens shall be available to all
7 children in residence of the school district who are of the age
8 fixed by the board of school directors pursuant to subsection
9 (a) of this section.

10 [If the average attendance in any one kindergarten in any
11 district is ten or less for the school year, the school
12 directors shall, at the close of the school year, discontinue
13 the same.]

14 (c) The board of school directors shall appoint and assign a
15 sufficient number of teachers to such kindergartens, who shall
16 be certified in accordance with the rules and regulations
17 prescribed by the [Council of Basic Education.] State Board of
18 Education.

19 Section 2. Section 1326 of the act is amended to read:

20 Section 1326. Definitions.--The term "compulsory school
21 age," as hereinafter used, shall mean the period of a child's
22 life from the time the child's parents elect to have the child
23 enter school, which shall be not later than at the age of [eight
24 (8)] six (6) years, until the age of seventeen (17) years. The
25 term shall not include any child who holds a certificate of
26 graduation from a regularly accredited senior high school.

27 The term "migratory child," wherever used in this subdivision
28 of this article, shall include any child domiciled temporarily
29 in any school district for the purpose of seasonal employment,
30 but not acquiring residence therein, and any child accompanying

1 his parent or guardian who is so domiciled.

2 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.