WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1971

ENROLLED
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 343

(By Mr. McKown)
ORIGINAL SPONSOR

PASSED MARCH 13, 1971

In Effect JULY 1, 1971
Passage
AN ACT to amend and reenact section eighteen, article five, chapter eighteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to early childhood education.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section eighteen, article five, chapter eighteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.


1 County boards of education shall provide by the school
year one thousand nine hundred seventy-three—seventy-
four and continue thereafter early childhood education
programs for all children who shall have attained the
age of five prior to November first of the school year in
which the pupil enters such early childhood education
program and may establish early childhood education
programs designed for children below the age of five.

Persons employed as early childhood education teach-
ers, as distinguished from paraprofessional personnel,
shall be required to hold a certificate valid for teaching
at the assigned level as prescribed by regulations estab-
lished by the state board of education. The state board
of education shall establish and prescribe guidelines and
criteria setting forth the minimum requirements for all
paraprofessional personnel employed in early childhood
education programs established pursuant to the provi-
sions of this section and no such paraprofessional per-
sonnel shall be employed in any early childhood edu-
cation program unless he meets such minimum require-
ments.

The state board of education with the advice of the
state superintendent of free schools shall establish and
prescribe guidelines and criteria relating to the establish-
ment and operation of early childhood education pro-
grams in accordance with the other provisions of this
section. Guidelines and criteria so established and pre-
scribed are also intended to serve for the establishment
and operation of nonpublic early childhood education
programs and shall be used for the evaluation and ap-
proval of such programs, provided application for such
evaluation and approval is made in writing to the state
board by proper authorities in control of such programs.
The state superintendent of free schools at intervals
not to exceed two years shall publish a list of nonpublic
early childhood education programs that have been ap-
proved in accordance with the provisions of this section.
Pursuant to such guidelines and criteria, and only pur-
suant to such guidelines and criteria, the county boards
may establish programs taking early childhood educa-
tion to the homes of the children involved, using edu-
cational television, paraprofessional personnel in addition
to and to supplement regularly certified teachers, mobile
or permanent classrooms and other means developed to best carry early childhood education to the child in its home and enlist the aid and involvement of its parent or parents in presenting the program to the child; or may develop programs of a more formal kindergarden type, in existing school buildings, or both, as such county board may determine, taking into consideration the cost, the terrain, the existing available facilities, the distances each child may be required to travel, the time each child may be required to be away from home, the child's health, the involvement of parents and such other factors as each county board may find pertinent.

Funds for implementing the early childhood education programs during the fiscal year nineteen hundred seventy-two and thereafter shall be allocated to counties from a special appropriation to the state department of education from the general revenue fund: Provided, however, That except for expenditures from the general revenue funds for regional early childhood demonstration centers, in no event shall any state money from the
general fund be expended under the provisions of this section unless federal funds are available for the purpose of this section.

Allocations to counties will be made on the basis of approved early childhood programs. The West Virginia board of education shall establish criteria and standards necessary to guide counties in developing approvable early childhood education programs and shall determine funding levels of said programs on local operating costs.

An additional appropriation shall be made to the state department of education from the general revenue fund to establish and operate during the fiscal year nineteen hundred seventy-two, regional early childhood education demonstration centers in educational regions three, four, five, six and seven, and thereafter in regions one through seven. Said funds shall be allocated to said regions for establishing and operating regional demonstration centers in accordance with criteria and standards established by the West Virginia board of education. Said regional centers shall be established to provide exemplary and innovative early childhood education programs, to pro-
vide laboratory experiences for pre-service and in-service education for professional personnel and staff development programs for training paraprofessional personnel, to establish organizational and administrative machinery designed to promote cooperation between and among all agencies involved in the education and development of young children, and to promote cooperation between counties in providing high cost supervisory, developmental, research and evaluative services not currently available to individual counties.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Russell D. Beall
Chairman Senate Committee

Phyllis J. Rutledge
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

To take effect July 1, 1971.

Frank W. Meyer
Clerk of the Senate

W.A. Blankenship
Clerk of the House of Delegates

E. Harry McQuire
President of the Senate

Lewis H. McManus
Speaker House of Delegates

The within __________ approved this the ________ day of ________, 1971.

With S. Shanks
Governor
PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

Date 3/18/71
Time 1:55 p.m.