

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



FILED IN THE OFFICE  
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, IV  
SECRETARY OF STATE

THIS DATE 4-2-71

343

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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR

**Senate Bill No. 343**

(MR. MCKOWN, *original sponsor*)

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[Passed March 13, 1971; in effect July 1, 1971.]

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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.**

**§18-5-18. Early childhood education.**

1 County boards of education shall provide by the school

2 year one thousand nine hundred seventy-three—seventy-  
3 four and continue thereafter early childhood education  
4 programs for all children who shall have attained the  
5 age of five prior to November first of the school year in  
6 which the pupil enters such early childhood education  
7 program and may establish early childhood education  
8 programs designed for children below the age of five.

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

22 The state board of education with the advice of the

23 state superintendent of free schools shall establish and  
24 prescribe guidelines and criteria relating to the estab-  
25 lishment and operation of early childhood education pro-  
26 grams in accordance with the other provisions of this  
27 section. Guidelines and criteria so established and pre-  
28 scribed are also intended to serve for the establishment  
29 and operation of nonpublic early childhood education  
30 programs and shall be used for the evaluation and ap-  
31 proval of such programs, provided application for such  
32 evaluation and approval is made in writing to the state  
33 board by proper authorities in control of such programs.  
34 The state superintendent of free schools at intervals  
35 not to exceed two years shall publish a list of nonpublic  
36 early childhood education programs that have been ap-  
37 proved in accordance with the provisions of this section.

38 Pursuant to such guidelines and criteria, and only pur-  
39 suant to such guidelines and criteria, the county boards  
40 may establish programs taking early childhood educa-  
41 tion to the homes of the children involved, using edu-  
42 cational television, paraprofessional personnel in addition  
43 to and to supplement regularly certified teachers, mobile

44 or permanent classrooms and other means developed to  
45 best carry early childhood education to the child in its  
46 home and enlist the aid and involvement of its parent  
47 or parents in presenting the program to the child;  
48 or may develop programs of a more formal kinder-  
49 garten type, in existing school buildings, or both, as  
50 such county board may determine, taking into con-  
51 sideration the cost, the terrain, the existing available  
52 facilities, the distances each child may be required to  
53 travel, the time each child may be required to be away  
54 from home, the child's health, the involvement of par-  
55 ents and such other factors as each county board may find  
56 pertinent.

57 Funds for implementing the early childhood educa-  
58 tion programs during the fiscal year nineteen hundred  
59 seventy-two and thereafter shall be allocated to counties  
60 from a special appropriation to the state department of  
61 education from the general revenue fund: *Provided,*  
62 *however,* That except for expenditures from the general  
63 revenue funds for regional early childhood demonstration  
64 centers, in no event shall any state money from the

65 general fund be expended under the provisions of this  
66 section unless federal funds are available for the purpose  
67 of this section.

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

74 An additional appropriation shall be made to the state  
75 department of education from the general revenue fund  
76 to establish and operate during the fiscal year nineteen  
77 hundred seventy-two, regional early childhood education  
78 demonstration centers in educational regions three, four,  
79 five, six and seven, and thereafter in regions one through  
80 seven. Said funds shall be allocated to said regions for  
81 establishing and operating regional demonstration centers  
82 in accordance with criteria and standards established  
83 by the West Virginia board of education. Said regional  
84 centers shall be established to provide exemplary and  
85 innovative early childhood education programs, to pro-

86 vide laboratory experiences for pre-service and in-  
87 service education for professional personnel and staff  
88 development programs for training paraprofessional per-  
89 sonnel, to establish organizational and administrative  
90 machinery designed to promote cooperation between and  
91 among all agencies involved in the education and de-  
92 velopment of young children, and to promote cooperation  
93 between counties in providing high cost supervisory, de-  
94 velopmental, research and evaluative services not cur-  
95 rently available to individual counties.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

*Russell H. Beall*  
Chairman Senate Committee

*Phyllis J. Rutledge*  
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

To take effect July 1, 1971.

*Howard Meyer*  
Clerk of the Senate

*Blankenship*  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

*E. Hans McEoust*  
President of the Senate

*Lewis N. McManus*  
Speaker House of Delegates

The within *approved* this the 1<sup>st</sup>  
day of *April*, 1971.

*Arch A. Shaver, Jr.*  
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE  
GOVERNOR

Date 3/18/71

Time 1:55 p.m.

RECEIVED

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OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA