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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE BILL

No. **694** Session of  
1961

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INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. HAYS AND SEYLER, MAY 24, 1961.

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 24, 1961.

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## AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10 1949 (P L 30) entitled "An act relating to the public school system including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools amending revising consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto" clarifying and changing provisions relating to the keeping open of schools

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows

EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter stricken through is to be omitted from bill. Underscoring indicates new matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

1 Section 1 Section 503 act of March 10 1949 (P L 30) known as  
2 the "Public School Code of 1949" amended September 21 1959 (P L  
3 925) is amended to read

4 Section 503 Kindergartens The board of school directors in any  
5 school district may establish and maintain kindergartens for children  
6 between the ages of four and six years When established the kinder-  
7 gartens shall be an integral part of the elementary school system of  
8 the district and be kept open for not less than a daily average of  
9 two and one-half hours [each day] for the full school term as provided  
10 in section 1501

11 The number of kindergartens in any one district shall be fixed  
12 by the board of school directors and shall be open during the school year

13 If the average attendance in any one kindergarten in any district  
14 is ten or less for the school year the school directors shall at the  
15 close of the school year discontinue the same

16 The board of school directors shall appoint and assign a sufficient  
17 number of teachers to such kindergartens who shall be certified in  
18 accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the State  
19 Council of Education

1 Section 2 Subsection (a) of section 1504 of the act amended July  
2 27 1953 (P L 629) is amended to read

3 Section 1504 Dates and Times of School Terms and Sessions

4 Commencement (a) The board of school directors of each school district

5 or joint school shall fix the date of the beginning of the school term

6 [Unless otherwise determined by the board the daily session of school

7 shall open at nine ante-meridian and close at four post-meridian with

8 an intermission of one hour at noon and an intermission of fifteen

9 minutes in the forenoon and in the afternoon] and establish the time

10 for opening and closing each daily session Provided That secondary

11 schools shall be in daily session for not less than six (6) hours of in-

12 struction exclusive of intermission at noon that elementary schools shall

13 be in daily session for not fewer than five and one-half (5½) hours of

14 instruction in the intermediate grades and not less than five (5) hours

15 in the primary grades exclusive of intermission at noon and as the board

16 may direct fifteen (15) minute intermissions in the forenoon and after-

17 noon that kindergartens shall be in session each day for not less than

18 a daily average of two and one-half (2½) hours for the full term

19 Provided further That at the request of the board of school directors

20 the Superintendent of Public Instruction may approve for elementary

1 and secondary purposes the reduction of the length of the daily session  
 2 for cogent reasons relating to sparsity road or climatic conditions health  
 3 safety or welfare of the children if in his opinion the shorter school day  
 4 is fully compensated for by an extension in length of school term The  
 5 approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to shorten sessions  
 6 shall not exceed a period of one school year Annual extensions may be  
 7 granted by the State Superintendent upon reveiw of the circumstances  
 8 in each case Individua! daily sessions may be shortened for emergencies  
 9 due to inclement weather or valid causes beyond the control of school  
 10 officials

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We certify that this bill has passed the Senate and the House of Representatives.

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Chief Clerk, Senate

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President pro tempore, Senate

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Speaker, House of Representatives

Approved The ..... day of ..... A. D. 1961.

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Governor