

No. 129

AN ACT

SB 955

Providing services for the diagnosis and correction of speech and hearing defects to nonpublic school children.

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

Section 1. Legislative Finding; Declaration of Policy.—Defects in *speech and hearing are health-related*. They are also the frequent cause of emotional instability in children and are vitally connected to behavior and to learning ability. Services to remedy these defects can best be conducted upon the premises of the school which the child regularly attends, and forcing children to go to other premises in order to have such needed services is found by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be both inadequate and harmful. The General Assembly expressly finds and declares speech and hearing correctional services to be health services, and it is the intention of the General Assembly now to make these available, on a general and even-handed basis to all school children in the Commonwealth.

Section 2. Definition.—As used in this act:

“Nonpublic school” means any nonprofit school, other than a public school within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein a resident of the Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Pub.L.88-352).

Section 3. Provision of Services.—The Secretary of Education directly, or through the intermediate units out of their allocation under section 922.1-A of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the “Public School Code of 1949,” shall have the power and duty to furnish free to nonpublic school students, upon the premises of the nonpublic schools which they regularly attend, services adequate for the diagnosis and correction of speech and hearing defects provided that such services are also afforded to public school students by the public school district in which such nonpublic school is located.

Section 4. Effective Date.—This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 26th day of November, A. D. 1975.

MILTON J. SHAPP