

No. 1977-4

AN ACT

HB 446

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), 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," by providing for the emergency generated by the gas crisis in relationship to the length of the school year, the compensation of employes and the graduation of qualified students.

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

Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the "Public School Code of 1949," is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 1501.1. Weather Emergency of 1977.—(a) For the school year 1976-77 all public and approved private kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, vocational-technical schools, and intermediate unit programs of instruction, shall make every effort to keep open for at least one hundred seventy-seven (177) days of instruction for pupils and, in the alternative, the Secretary of Education shall authorize, without need of application, each school district to have the option of computing the instructional time on an hourly basis, rather than a daily basis, of nine hundred (900) hours for elementary and nine hundred ninety (990) hours for secondary schools. No public or approved private kindergarten, elementary or secondary school, vocational-technical school, or intermediate unit program of instruction which was closed because of the Weather Emergency and which makes a good faith effort as determined by the Secretary of Education to keep open for at least one hundred seventy-seven (177) days or the optional hourly basis of instruction for pupils shall receive less subsidy payments or reimbursements than it would otherwise be entitled to receive on account of the school year 1976-77. No employe of any school closed by reason of the Weather Emergency of 1977 shall receive more or less compensation than that to which the employe would otherwise have been entitled to from the school district, intermediate unit or vocational-technical school, had the Weather Emergency of 1977 not occurred.

(b) An employe shall not receive additional salary for services rendered on days or for hours rescheduled as a result of the Weather Emergency of 1977, unless the number of days rescheduled extends the number of days provided for in the original school calendar; in which case, an employe shall receive a pro rata increase for such additional days.

(c) A school district shall not be required to change its high school graduation schedule or require graduating students to return to school after graduation to demonstrate good faith for the purposes of subsection (a).

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on June 30, 1977.

APPROVED—The 1st day of June, A. D. 1977.

MILTON J. SHAPP