

1 AN ACT in relation to children.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Early Intervention Services System Act is
5 amended by changing Section 2 as follows:

6 (325 ILCS 20/2) (from Ch. 23, par. 4152)

7 Sec. 2. Legislative Findings and Policy.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that there is an urgent
9 and substantial need to:

10 (1) enhance the development of all eligible infants
11 and toddlers in the State of Illinois in order to
12 minimize developmental delay and maximize individual
13 potential for adult independence;

14 (2) enhance the capacity of families to meet the
15 special needs of eligible infants and toddlers including
16 the purchase of services when necessary;

17 (3) reduce educational costs by minimizing the need
18 for special education and related services when eligible
19 infants and toddlers reach school age;

20 (4) enhance the independence, productivity and
21 integration with age-appropriate peers of eligible
22 children and their families;

23 (5) reduce social services costs and minimize the
24 need for institutionalization; and

25 (6) prevent secondary impairments and disabilities
26 by improving the health of infants and toddlers, thereby
27 reducing health costs for the families and the State.

28 (b) The General Assembly therefore intends that the
29 policy of this State shall be to:

30 (1) affirm the importance of the family in all
31 areas of the child's development and reinforce the role

1 of the family as a participant in the decision making
2 processes regarding their child;

3 (2) provide assistance and support to eligible
4 infants and toddlers and their families to address the
5 individual concerns and decisions of each family;

6 (3) develop and implement, on a statewide basis,
7 locally based comprehensive, coordinated,
8 interdisciplinary, interagency early intervention
9 services for all eligible infants and toddlers;

10 (4) enhance the local communities' capacity to
11 provide an array of quality early intervention services;

12 (5) identify and coordinate all available resources
13 for early intervention within the State including those
14 from federal, State, local and private sources;

15 (6) provide financial and technical assistance to
16 local communities for the purposes of coordinating early
17 intervention services in local communities and enhancing
18 the communities' capacity to provide individualized early
19 intervention services to all eligible infants and
20 toddlers in their homes or in community environments; and

21 (7) affirm that eligible infants and toddlers have
22 a right to receive early intervention services to the
23 maximum extent appropriate, in natural environments in
24 which infants and toddlers without disabilities would
25 participate.

26 (c) The General Assembly further finds that early
27 intervention services are cost-effective and effectively
28 serve the developmental needs of eligible infants and
29 toddlers and their families. Therefore, the purpose of this
30 Act is to provide a comprehensive, coordinated, interagency,
31 interdisciplinary early intervention services system for
32 eligible infants and toddlers and their families by enhancing
33 the capacity to provide quality early intervention services,
34 expanding and improving existing services, and facilitating

1 coordination of payments for early intervention services from
2 various public and private sources.

3 (d) It is the General Assembly's intent that, to the
4 extent allowable by law, this Act shall be administered to
5 maximize Medicaid funding for services provided under this
6 Act.

7 (Source: P.A. 91-538, eff. 8-13-99.)

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
9 becoming law.