

## No. 1979-102

## AN ACT

## SB 502

Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public welfare laws of the Commonwealth," prohibiting assistance to certain students and removing a qualification of the Commissioner of Mental Health and making a repealer.

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

Section 1. Section 403, act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the "Public Welfare Code," is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Section 403. Uniformity in Administration of Assistance; Regulations as to Assistance.—\* \* \*

*(d) No general assistance shall be paid to any full-time student at a college or university who has not participated in a Federally subsidized program for dependent children within the previous five years.*

Section 2. Section 1111 of the act is amended to read:

Section 1111. Commissioner of Mental Health.—The secretary shall appoint, with the approval of the Governor, a deputy secretary who shall have the title of Commissioner of Mental Health and who shall be a psychiatrist with **[at least seven years']** training and experience in the care of patients *and broad administrative experience in the field of mental health*. **[The Commissioner of Mental Health shall serve for a five year term and shall be eligible for reappointment.]** The Commissioner of Mental Health, with the approval of the secretary, shall develop plans and programs and make recommendations with respect to the general policy of the Commonwealth's mental health program. He shall initiate, develop and, with the approval of the secretary, carry into effect plans and programs designed to prevent, treat and cure the mentally ill. He shall recommend to the secretary such professional and skilled personnel as may be necessary to carry out the plans and programs of the department in the field of mental health. He shall organize and institute intensive and specialized training of mental health personnel in order to qualify them for dealing with special problems presented by the criminal population and shall establish, operate and maintain, in the larger district offices of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, units to provide psychological and psychiatric services to the Board of Parole and shall assign to these units trained personnel specialized in psychiatry and psychology. He shall recommend to the secretary the appointment of the superintendents of State mental institutions who in turn shall assign, appoint and dismiss personnel of the institutions.

Section 3. Section 2313.1, act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as "The Administrative Code of 1929," is repealed.

Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 7th day of December, A. D. 1979.

DICK THORNBURGH