

No. 1980-28

AN ACT

SB 308

Providing for the continuation, operation and administration of the school for indigent orphans known as the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in which school instruction shall be given in all basic educational subjects and additional training given in elementary manual skills, elements of farming and other programs of similar nature.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology Act."

Section 2. Legislative intent.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through enactment of the act of October 4, 1978 (P.L.909, No.173), inadvertently repealed the provisions of the act of May 11, 1905 (P.L.518, No.429), which provided for the establishment and operation of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology. It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide for the continued existence, operation and administration of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology and to reverse whatever effects may arise from the inadvertent repeal of its enabling legislation.

Section 3. Authorization to continue school operations.

The institution known as the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology established and operated pursuant to the repealed provisions of the act of May 11, 1905 (P.L.518, No.429) is hereby authorized to continue operations and to receive any State funds or aid to which it may be entitled. All lawful actions and expenditures made by said institution between October 4, 1978 and the effective date of this act are hereby ratified and approved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section 4. School purposes.

(a) The Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania shall continue to provide for the education and training of indigent orphans.

(b) If a sufficient number of indigent orphans qualified for admission pursuant to school standards fail to apply, then the board of trustees of this cooperation may admit, first other deserving persons, and, thereafter orphans who may not be indigent, as the trustees in their best judgment may think proper.

(c) Those shall be deemed orphans who have lost either parent.

Section 5. School buildings.

The buildings shall be separated, and shall embrace one or more schoolhouses, and one or more workshops, and an isolating hospital, all on such scale as will create an institution accommodating not less than 200 persons, planned and located for easy and natural additions, as the needs of the institution may demand.

Section 6. Board of trustees.

The board of trustees shall consist of nine members, who shall serve without compensation, and be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Said trustees shall be a body politic or corporate, of the name of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology. They shall manage and direct the affairs of the institution, and make all necessary bylaws and regulations, not inconsistent with either the provisions of the Constitution, laws of the Commonwealth, or rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. Of the trustees first appointed, three shall serve for one year, three for two years, and three for three years, and at the expiration of the respective periods the vacancies shall be filled by the Governor, by appointment, for three years, as hereinbefore provided; and should any vacancy occur by death or resignation, or otherwise, of any trustee, such vacancy shall be filled, by appointment as aforesaid, for the unexpired term of said trustee. The Secretary of Education shall be ex-officio member of the board of trustees.

Section 7. President of the school.

The chief administrator and academic officer of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology shall be the president whose duties shall be defined by the board of trustees and approved by the Secretary of Education. Other administrative personnel shall be designated at the discretion of the board of trustees.

Section 8. Individuals eligible for admission.

(a) There shall be received into the institution indigent orphan persons or other deserving persons, from the State of Pennsylvania, above the age of 15 years, whose admission may be applied for under such regulations as the board of trustees may adopt. In considering such admission no preference shall be shown on account of race, color, sex, marital status, ethnic group or religion.

(b) The course of instruction shall be the equivalent level of the junior and senior year of a four year public vocational-technical high school and/or a two year postsecondary institution which shall include:

(1) vocational education of no more than two years leading to the awarding of diplomas, certificates or associate degrees, when approved by the Secretary of Education in accordance with rules and regulations established by the State board for this level of education, for the purpose of fitting pupils to pursue effectively a recognized profitable employment; and

(2) evening or other classes providing such instruction for persons who have left full-time school providing the board of trustees shall establish and charge tuition for such instruction that will cover the total cost of instruction including all direct costs and the allocable portion of all applicable indirect costs.

Section 9. Tuition students.

In addition to State-supported resident students as defined in section 4, the board of trustees may admit for study at the school part-time or full-time tuition students, and shall fix and charge tuition rates as approved by the Secretary of Education for such students. All money collected as tuition by the institution shall be paid into the General Fund and credited to the appropriations made to the institution.

Section 10. Rights of teachers and staff.

Except as otherwise provided by law, teachers in the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology shall enjoy the same privileges, including tenure rights, and be subject to the same laws as teachers in the public schools of this Commonwealth.

Section 11. Visitation privileges.

The Governor, Secretary of Education, judges of the several courts of the State, and Senators and Representatives in the Legislature shall be ex-officio visitors of said institution; and it shall be subject to inspection by the Department of Education; and an annual report of the conduct and management of the school shall be made by the President to the General Assembly and the Secretary of Education.

Section 12. Prior references.

Whenever in any law reference is made to the Thaddeus Stevens Industrial and Reform School of Pennsylvania or the Thaddeus Stevens Trade School it shall be deemed to refer to and include the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology.

Section 13. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately and shall be retroactive to October 4, 1978.

APPROVED—The 6th day of April, A. D. 1980.

DICK THORNBURGH