

3197

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

March 12, 2009

Introduced by Sen. VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to enacting the CyberStart program

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The state of New York recognizes that
2 every child should have access to the power of the interactive tools and
3 technology, regardless of their economic situation, no matter what their
4 race or ethnicity, whether they live in the inner city or a rural commu-
5 nity. Every young child in New York state should have the ability to
6 learn and develop with the greatest ease and speed.

7 Access to computers will provide New York's children the ability to
8 use interactive technology to communicate with parents, child day care
9 providers, and each other as they learn and play, create and exercise
10 their imaginations. CyberStart provides families and child day care
11 providers with the tools children need to develop their thinking abili-
12 ties, while gaining a headstart to succeed in the digital economy of the
13 twenty-first century.

14 This vision is the foundation for CyberStart, an initiative to develop
15 and make available free web-based learning and thinking tools to every
16 pre-school child in New York. More than a program, CyberStart is an
17 essential building block to bridge the gap between computer and technol-
18 ogy haves and have-nots that will continue to widen and undermine our
19 children's ability to succeed, unless we address it now.

20 CyberStart empowers children to learn, develop and explore. It
21 empowers parents to take action and make positive choices in their chil-
22 dren's education. It empowers child day care providers with professional
23 cognitive teaching tools that will reinforce their valuable contribution
24 to our children's knowledge base. It empowers the community by bringing
25 people together to help create an environment that provides our children

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD051111-01-9

1 with a positive attitude toward learning and education. Ultimately, it
2 will empower companies through a smarter, better-educated and better
3 prepared work force. The CyberStart program will help New York become a
4 stronger force in the ever-expanding digital economy that will define
5 the twenty-first century economy.

6 S 2. The social services law is amended by adding a new section
7 410-cccc to read as follows:

8 S 410-CCCC. CYBERSTART GRANTS FOR CHILD DAY CARE. 1. THE COMMISSIONER
9 OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES MAY MAKE GRANTS AVAILABLE
10 TO DAY CARE CENTERS THAT ARE LICENSED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION TWO OF
11 SECTION THREE HUNDRED NINETY OF THIS ARTICLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVID-
12 ING COMPUTERS AND INTERNET ACCESS. SUCH GRANTS SHALL BE USED TO PROVIDE
13 A DAY CARE CENTER WITH A COMPUTER SYSTEM.

14 EACH GRANT SHALL INCLUDE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH A COMPUTER SYSTEM,
15 INCLUDING:

16 A. A COMPUTER,

17 B. A MONITOR,

18 C. INTERNET FILTERING SOFTWARE,

19 D. A COLOR PRINTER, AND

20 E. FUNDING TO PROVIDE INTERNET SERVICE FOR ONE YEAR.

21 2. NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
22 SECTION, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
23 MAY DEVELOP AND SEND TO EACH OF ITS LICENSED DAY CARE CENTERS A REQUEST
24 FOR APPLICATION TO THE CYBERSTART PROGRAM.

25 3. IF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES MAKES GRANTS AVAIL-
26 ABLE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF CHIL-
27 DREN AND FAMILY SERVICES SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, TEMPO-
28 RARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY NOT LATER
29 THAN DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, TWO THOUSAND TEN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
30 THIS PROGRAM. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS
31 AWARDED.

32 S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
33 ing the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately,
34 any rule and regulation necessary for the timely implementation of this
35 act on its effective date may be promulgated on or before such date.