S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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:

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

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

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

CyberStart empowers children to learn, develop and explore. It empowers parents to take action and make positive choices in their children's education. It empowers child day care providers with professional cognitive teaching tools that will reinforce their valuable contribution to our children's knowledge base. It empowers the community by bringing 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.

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

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

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

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

A. A COMPUTER,

B. A MONITOR,

C. INTERNET FILTERING SOFTWARE,

D. A COLOR PRINTER, AND

E. FUNDING TO PROVIDE INTERNET SERVICE FOR ONE YEAR.

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

3. IF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES MAKES GRANTS AVAILABLE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, TWO THOUSAND TEN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED.

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