Public Law 106–71
106th Congress

An Act

Oct. 12, 1999
[S. 249]

To provide funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act. 42 USC 5601 note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 402 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(9) for 14 years, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has—

"(A) served as the national resource center and clearinghouse congressionally mandated under the provisions of the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984; and

"(B) worked in partnership with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of State, and many other agencies in the effort to find missing children and prevent child victimization;

"(10) Congress has given the Center, which is a private nonprofit corporation, access to the National Crime Information Center of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System;

"(11) since 1987, the Center has operated the National Child Pornography Tipline, in conjunction with the United States Customs Service and the United States Postal Inspection Service and, beginning this year, the Center established a new CyberTipline on child exploitation, thus becoming 'the 911 for the Internet';

"(12) in light of statistics that time is of the essence in cases of child abduction, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in February of 1997 created a new NCIC child abduction ('CA') flag to provide the Center immediate notification in the most serious cases, resulting in 642 'CA' notifications to the Center and helping the Center to have its highest recovery rate in history;

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"(13) the Center has established a national and increasingly worldwide network, linking the Center online with each of the missing children clearinghouses operated by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as with Scotland Yard in the United Kingdom, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon, France, and others, which has enabled the Center to transmit images and information regarding missing children to law enforcement across the United States and around the world instantly;

"(14) from its inception in 1984 through March 31, 1998, the Center has—

"(A) handled 1,203,974 calls through its 24-hour toll-free hotline (1–800–THE–LOST) and currently averages 700 calls per day;

"(B) trained 146,284 law enforcement, criminal and juvenile justice, and healthcare professionals in child sexual exploitation and missing child case detection, identification, investigation, and prevention;

"(C) disseminated 15,491,344 free publications to citizens and professionals; and

"(D) worked with law enforcement on the cases of 59,481 missing children, resulting in the recovery of 40,180 children;

"(15) the demand for the services of the Center is growing dramatically, as evidenced by the fact that in 1997, the Center handled 129,100 calls, an all-time record, and by the fact that its new Internet website (www.missingkids.com) receives 1,500,000 'hits' every day, and is linked with hundreds of other websites to provide real-time images of breaking cases of missing children;

"(16) in 1997, the Center provided policy training to 256 police chiefs and sheriffs from 50 States and Guam at its new Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Center;

"(17) the programs of the Center have had a remarkable impact, such as in the fight against infant abductions in partnership with the healthcare industry, during which the Center has performed 668 onsite hospital walk-throughs and inspections, and trained 45,065 hospital administrators, nurses, and security personnel, and thereby helped to reduce infant abductions in the United States by 82 percent;

"(18) the Center is now playing a significant role in international child abduction cases, serving as a representative of the Department of State at cases under The Hague Convention, and successfully resolving the cases of 343 international child abductions, and providing greater support to parents in the United States;

"(19) the Center is a model of public/private partnership, raising private sector funds to match congressional appropriations and receiving extensive private in-kind support, including advanced technology provided by the computer industry such as imaging technology used to age the photographs of long-term missing children and to reconstruct facial images of unidentified deceased children;

"(20) the Center was 1 of only 10 of 300 major national charities given an A+ grade in 1997 by the American Institute of Philanthropy; and

"(21) the Center has been redesignated as the Nation's missing children clearinghouse and resource center once every 3 years through a competitive selection process conducted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice, and has received grants from that Office to conduct the crucial purposes of the Center.".

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 403 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5772) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) the term 'Center' means the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.".

(c) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 404 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) ANNUAL GRANT TO NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall annually make a grant to the Center, which shall be used to—

"(A)(i) operate a national 24-hour toll-free telephone line by which individuals may report information regarding the location of any missing child, or other child 13 years of age or younger whose whereabouts are unknown to such child's legal custodian, and request information pertaining to procedures necessary to reunite such child with such child's legal custodian; and

"(ii) coordinate the operation of such telephone line with the operation of the national communications system referred to in part C of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–11);

"(B) operate the official national resource center and information clearinghouse for missing and exploited children;

"(C) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals, information regarding—

"(i) free or low-cost legal, restaurant, lodging, and transportation services that are available for the benefit of missing and exploited children and their families; and

"(ii) the existence and nature of programs being carried out by Federal agencies to assist missing and exploited children and their families;

"(D) coordinate public and private programs that locate, recover, or reunite missing children with their families;

"(E) disseminate, on a national basis, information relating to innovative and model programs, services, and legislation that benefit missing and exploited children;

"(F) provide technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies, State and local governments, elements of the criminal justice system, public and private

nonprofit agencies, and individuals in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases involving missing and exploited children; and

"(G) provide assistance to families and law enforcement agencies in locating and recovering missing and exploited children, both nationally and internationally.

"(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this subsection, $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

"(c) NATIONAL INCIDENCE STUDIES.—The Administrator, either by making grants to or entering into contracts with public agencies or nonprofit private agencies, shall—

Grants.
Contracts.

"(1) periodically conduct national incidence studies to determine for a given year the actual number of children reported missing each year, the number of children who are victims of abduction by strangers, the number of children who are the victims of parental kidnapings, and the number of children who are recovered each year; and

"(2) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals information to facilitate the lawful use of school records and birth certificates to identify and locate missing children.".

(d) NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.—Section 405(a) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5775(a)) is amended by inserting "the Center and with" before "public agencies".

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 408 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5777) is amended by striking "1997 through 2001" and inserting "2000 through 2003".

SEC. 3. RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 302 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "accurate reporting of the problem nationally and to develop" and inserting "an accurate national reporting system to report the problem, and to assist in the development of"; and

(2) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

"(8) services for runaway and homeless youth are needed in urban, suburban, and rural areas;".

(b) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.—Section 311 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5711) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to public and nonprofit private entities (and combinations of such entities) to establish and operate (including renovation) local centers to provide services for runaway and homeless youth and for the families of such youth.

"(2) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Services provided under paragraph (1)—

"(A) shall be provided as an alternative to involving runaway and homeless youth in the law enforcement, child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice systems;

"(B) shall include—

"(i) safe and appropriate shelter; and

"(ii) individual, family, and group counseling, as appropriate; and

"(C) may include—

"(i) street-based services;

"(ii) home-based services for families with youth at risk of separation from the family; and

"(iii) drug abuse education and prevention services.";

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,"; and

(3) by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 312 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5712) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking "paragraph (6)" and inserting "paragraph (7)";

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

Reports.

"(12) shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that includes, with respect to the year for which the report is submitted—

"(A) information regarding the activities carried out under this part;

"(B) the achievements of the project under this part carried out by the applicant; and

"(C) statistical summaries describing—

"(i) the number and the characteristics of the runaway and homeless youth, and youth at risk of family separation, who participate in the project; and

"(ii) the services provided to such youth by the project."; and

(2) by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

"(c) APPLICANTS PROVIDING STREET-BASED SERVICES.—To be eligible to use assistance under section 311(a)(2)(C)(i) to provide street-based services, the applicant shall include in the plan required by subsection (b) assurances that in providing such services the applicant will—

"(1) provide qualified supervision of staff, including on-street supervision by appropriately trained staff;

"(2) provide backup personnel for on-street staff;

"(3) provide initial and periodic training of staff who provide such services; and

"(4) conduct outreach activities for runaway and homeless youth, and street youth.

"(d) APPLICANTS PROVIDING HOME-BASED SERVICES.—To be eligible to use assistance under section 311(a) to provide home-based services described in section 311(a)(2)(C)(ii), an applicant shall include in the plan required by subsection (b) assurances that in providing such services the applicant will—

"(1) provide counseling and information to youth and the families (including unrelated individuals in the family households) of such youth, including services relating to basic life skills, interpersonal skill building, educational advancement,

job attainment skills, mental and physical health care, parenting skills, financial planning, and referral to sources of other needed services;

"(2) provide directly, or through an arrangement made by the applicant, 24-hour service to respond to family crises (including immediate access to temporary shelter for runaway and homeless youth, and youth at risk of separation from the family);

"(3) establish, in partnership with the families of runaway and homeless youth, and youth at risk of separation from the family, objectives and measures of success to be achieved as a result of receiving home-based services;

"(4) provide initial and periodic training of staff who provide home-based services; and

"(5) ensure that—

"(A) caseloads will remain sufficiently low to allow for intensive (5 to 20 hours per week) involvement with each family receiving such services; and

"(B) staff providing such services will receive qualified supervision.

"(e) APPLICANTS PROVIDING DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES.—To be eligible to use assistance under section 311(a)(2)(C)(iii) to provide drug abuse education and prevention services, an applicant shall include in the plan required by subsection (b)—

"(1) a description of—

"(A) the types of such services that the applicant proposes to provide;

"(B) the objectives of such services; and

"(C) the types of information and training to be provided to individuals providing such services to runaway and homeless youth; and

"(2) an assurance that in providing such services the applicant shall conduct outreach activities for runaway and homeless youth.".

(d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—Section 313 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5713) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 313. APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—An application by a public or private entity for a grant under section 311(a) may be approved by the Secretary after taking into consideration, with respect to the State in which such entity proposes to provide services under this part—

"(1) the geographical distribution in such State of the proposed services under this part for which all grant applicants request approval; and

"(2) which areas of such State have the greatest need for such services.

"(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting applications for grants under section 311(a), the Secretary shall give priority to—

"(1) eligible applicants who have demonstrated experience in providing services to runaway and homeless youth; and

"(2) eligible applicants that request grants of less than $200,000.".

(e) AUTHORITY FOR TRANSITIONAL LIVING GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 321 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–1) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "PURPOSE AND";

(2) in subsection (a), by striking "(a)"; and

(3) by striking subsection (b).

(f) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 322(a)(9) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–2(a)(9)) is amended by inserting ", and the services provided to such youth by such project," after "such project".

(g) COORDINATION.—Section 341 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–21) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 341. COORDINATION.

"With respect to matters relating to the health, education, employment, and housing of runaway and homeless youth, the Secretary—

"(1) in conjunction with the Attorney General, shall coordinate the activities of agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services with activities under any other Federal juvenile crime control, prevention, and juvenile offender accountability program and with the activities of other Federal entities; and

"(2) shall coordinate the activities of agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services with the activities of other Federal entities and with the activities of entities that are eligible to receive grants under this title.".

(h) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS FOR RESEARCH, EVALUATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND SERVICE PROJECTS.—Section 343 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–23) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting "EVALUATION," after "RESEARCH,";

(2) in subsection (a), by inserting "evaluation," after "research,"; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (10) as paragraphs (2) through (9), respectively.

(i) STUDY.—Part D of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5731 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 344 the following:

42 USC 5714–25.

"SEC. 345. STUDY.

"The Secretary shall conduct a study of a representative sample of runaways to determine the percent who leave home because of sexual abuse. The report on the study shall include—

"(1) in the case of sexual abuse, the relationship of the assaulter to the runaway; and

"(2) recommendations on how Federal laws may be changed to reduce sexual assaults on children.

Reports. Public information. Deadline.

The study shall be completed to enable the Secretary to make a report to the committees of Congress with jurisdiction over this Act, and to make such report available to the public, within one year of the date of the enactment of this section.".

(j) ASSISTANCE TO POTENTIAL GRANTEES.—Section 371 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714a) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(k) REPORTS.—Section 381 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5715) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 381. REPORTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2000, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, a report on the status, activities, and accomplishments of entities that receive grants under parts A, B, C, D, and E, with particular attention to— Deadline.

"(1) in the case of centers funded under part A, the ability or effectiveness of such centers in—

"(A) alleviating the problems of runaway and homeless youth;

"(B) if applicable or appropriate, reuniting such youth with their families and encouraging the resolution of intrafamily problems through counseling and other services;

"(C) strengthening family relationships and encouraging stable living conditions for such youth; and

"(D) assisting such youth to decide upon a future course of action; and

"(2) in the case of projects funded under part B—

"(A) the number and characteristics of homeless youth served by such projects;

"(B) the types of activities carried out by such projects;

"(C) the effectiveness of such projects in alleviating the problems of homeless youth;

"(D) the effectiveness of such projects in preparing homeless youth for self-sufficiency;

"(E) the effectiveness of such projects in assisting homeless youth to decide upon future education, employment, and independent living;

"(F) the ability of such projects to encourage the resolution of intrafamily problems through counseling and development of self-sufficient living skills; and

"(G) activities and programs planned by such projects for the following fiscal year.

"(b) CONTENTS OF REPORTS.—The Secretary shall include in each report submitted under subsection (a), summaries of—

"(1) the evaluations performed by the Secretary under section 386; and

"(2) descriptions of the qualifications of, and training provided to, individuals involved in carrying out such evaluations.".

(l) EVALUATION.—Section 384 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 386. EVALUATION AND INFORMATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—If a grantee receives grants for 3 consecutive fiscal years under part A, B, C, D, or E (in the alternative), then the Secretary shall evaluate such grantee on-site, not less frequently than once in the period of such 3 consecutive fiscal years, for purposes of—

"(1) determining whether such grants are being used for the purposes for which such grants are made by the Secretary;

"(2) collecting additional information for the report required by section 384; and

"(3) providing such information and assistance to such grantee as will enable such grantee to improve the operation of the centers, projects, and activities for which such grants are made.

"(b) COOPERATION.—Recipients of grants under this title shall cooperate with the Secretary's efforts to carry out evaluations, and to collect information, under this title.".

(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 385 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 388. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title (other than part E) such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

"(2) ALLOCATION.—

"(A) PARTS A AND B.—From the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not less than 90 percent to carry out parts A and B.

"(B) PART B.—Of the amount reserved under subparagraph (A), not less than 20 percent, and not more than 30 percent, shall be reserved to carry out part B.

"(3) PARTS C AND D.—In each fiscal year, after reserving the amounts required by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall use the remaining amount (if any) to carry out parts C and D.

"(b) SEPARATE IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED.—No funds appropriated to carry out this title may be combined with funds appropriated under any other Act if the purpose of combining such funds is to make a single discretionary grant, or a single discretionary payment, unless such funds are separately identified in all grants and contracts and are used for the purposes specified in this title.".

(n) SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM.—

(1) AUTHORITY FOR PROGRAM.—The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended—

42 USC 5715.
42 USC 5714a.

(A) by striking the heading for part F;

(B) by redesignating part E as part F; and

(C) by inserting after part D the following:

"PART E—SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

42 USC 5714–41.

"SEC. 351. AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to nonprofit private agencies for the purpose of providing street-based services to runaway and homeless, and street youth, who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, prostitution, or sexual exploitation.

"(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting applicants to receive grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to nonprofit private agencies that have experience in providing services to runaway and homeless, and street youth.".

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751), as amended by subsection (m) of this section, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) PART E.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out part E such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.".

(o) CONSOLIDATED REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 383 the following:

"SEC. 385. CONSOLIDATED REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS. 42 USC 5731a.

"With respect to funds available to carry out parts A, B, C, D, and E, nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary from—

"(1) announcing, in a single announcement, the availability of funds for grants under 2 or more of such parts; and

"(2) reviewing applications for grants under 2 or more of such parts in a single, consolidated application review process.".

(p) DEFINITIONS.—The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 386, as amended by subsection (l) of this section, the following:

"SEC. 387. DEFINITIONS. 42 USC 5732a.

"In this title:

"(1) DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES.—The term 'drug abuse education and prevention services'—

"(A) means services to runaway and homeless youth to prevent or reduce the illicit use of drugs by such youth; and

"(B) may include—

"(i) individual, family, group, and peer counseling;

"(ii) drop-in services;

"(iii) assistance to runaway and homeless youth in rural areas (including the development of community support groups);

"(iv) information and training relating to the illicit use of drugs by runaway and homeless youth, to individuals involved in providing services to such youth; and

"(v) activities to improve the availability of local drug abuse prevention services to runaway and homeless youth.

"(2) HOME-BASED SERVICES.—The term 'home-based services'—

"(A) means services provided to youth and their families for the purpose of—

"(i) preventing such youth from running away, or otherwise becoming separated, from their families; and

"(ii) assisting runaway youth to return to their families; and

"(B) includes services that are provided in the residences of families (to the extent practicable), including—

"(i) intensive individual and family counseling; and

"(ii) training relating to life skills and parenting.

"(3) HOMELESS YOUTH.—The term 'homeless youth' means an individual—

"(A) who is—

"(i) not more than 21 years of age; and

"(ii) for the purposes of part B, not less than 16 years of age;

"(B) for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative; and

"(C) who has no other safe alternative living arrangement.

"(4) STREET-BASED SERVICES.—The term 'street-based services'—

"(A) means services provided to runaway and homeless youth, and street youth, in areas where they congregate, designed to assist such youth in making healthy personal choices regarding where they live and how they behave; and

"(B) may include—

"(i) identification of and outreach to runaway and homeless youth, and street youth;

"(ii) crisis intervention and counseling;

"(iii) information and referral for housing;

"(iv) information and referral for transitional living and health care services;

"(v) advocacy, education, and prevention services related to—

"(I) alcohol and drug abuse;

"(II) sexual exploitation;

"(III) sexually transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and

"(IV) physical and sexual assault.

"(5) STREET YOUTH.—The term 'street youth' means an individual who—

"(A) is—

"(i) a runaway youth; or

"(ii) indefinitely or intermittently a homeless youth; and

"(B) spends a significant amount of time on the street or in other areas that increase the risk to such youth for sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution, or drug abuse.

"(6) TRANSITIONAL LIVING YOUTH PROJECT.—The term 'transitional living youth project' means a project that provides shelter and services designed to promote a transition to self-sufficient living and to prevent long-term dependency on social services.

"(7) YOUTH AT RISK OF SEPARATION FROM THE FAMILY.—The term 'youth at risk of separation from the family' means an individual—

"(A) who is less than 18 years of age; and

"(B)(i) who has a history of running away from the family of such individual;

"(ii) whose parent, guardian, or custodian is not willing to provide for the basic needs of such individual; or

"(iii) who is at risk of entering the child welfare system or juvenile justice system as a result of the lack of services available to the family to meet such needs.".

(q) REDESIGNATION OF SECTIONS.—Sections 371, 372, 381, 382, and 383 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714b–

42 USC 5714a, 5714b, 5715, 5716, 5731.

5851 et seq.), as amended by this Act, are redesignated as sections 380, 381, 382, 383, and 384, respectively.

(r) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 331, in the first sentence, by striking "With" and all that follows through "the Secretary", and inserting "The Secretary"; and 42 USC 5714–11.

(2) in section 344(a)(1), by striking "With" and all that follows through "the Secretary", and inserting "The Secretary". 42 USC 5714–24.

SEC. 4. STUDY OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE. 20 USC 7101 note.

(a) CONTRACT FOR STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences for the purposes of conducting a study regarding the antecedents of school violence in urban, suburban, and rural schools, including the incidents of school violence that occurred in Pearl, Mississippi; Paducah, Kentucky; Jonesboro, Arkansas; Springfield, Oregon; Edinboro, Pennsylvania; Fayetteville, Tennessee; Littleton, Colorado; and Conyers, Georgia. Under the terms of such contract, the National Academy of Sciences shall appoint a panel that will— Deadline.

(1) review the relevant research about adolescent violence in general and school violence in particular, including the existing longitudinal and cross-sectional studies on youth that are relevant to examining violent behavior;

(2) relate what can be learned from past and current research and surveys to specific incidents of school shootings;

(3) interview relevant individuals, if possible, such as the perpetrators of such incidents, their families, their friends, their teachers, mental health providers, and others; and

(4) give particular attention to such issues as—

(A) the perpetrators' early development, families, communities, school experiences, and utilization of mental health services;

(B) the relationship between perpetrators and their victims;

(C) how the perpetrators gained access to firearms;

(D) the impact of cultural influences and exposure to the media, video games, and the Internet; and

(E) such other issues as the panel deems important or relevant to the purpose of the study.

The National Academy of Sciences shall utilize professionals with expertise in such issues, including psychiatrists, social workers, behavioral and social scientists, practitioners, epidemiologists, statisticians, and methodologists.

(b) REPORT.—The National Academy of Sciences shall submit a report containing the results of the study required by subsection (a), to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Chair and ranking minority Member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Chair and ranking minority Member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, not later than January 1, 2001, or 18 months after entering into the contract required by such subsection, whichever is earlier. Deadline.

(c) APPROPRIATION.—Of the funds made available under Public Law 105–277 for the Department of Education, $2,100,000 shall be made available to carry out this section.

Approved October 12, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 249 (H.R. 905):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 106–152 accompanying H.R. 905 (Comm. on Education and the Workforce).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 145 (1999):
Apr. 19, considered and passed Senate.
May 25, considered and passed House, amended.
Sept. 28, Senate concurred in House amendment.