

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1478 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY CEPHAS, FEE, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, GUENST, PARKER, SANCHEZ, M. JONES, GIRAL, GALLAGHER, CIRESI, HADDOCK, CURRY, DONAHUE, KRAJEWSKI, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, GREEN, KAZEEM AND TAKAC, JUNE 21, 2023

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OCTOBER 18, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in school health services, further
6 providing for dental examinations and dental hygiene
7 services.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1403 of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended to read:

13 Section 1403. Dental [Examinations] Screenings and Dental

14 Hygiene Services.--(a) [All] NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER <--

15 PROVISION OF LAW, ALL children of school age in the

16 Commonwealth, (i) upon original entry into the school, (ii)

17 while in the third grade, and (iii) while in the seventh grade,

18 shall be given a dental [examination] screening by a school

19 dentist or public health dental hygiene practitioner: Provided,

1 however, That this requirement shall not apply to those school
2 districts or joint school boards which have instituted a program
3 of dental hygiene services as provided in subsection (b) of this
4 section.

5 (b) Any school district or joint school board may institute
6 a program of dental hygiene services for children of school age,
7 which program shall be approved by the Secretary of Health, and
8 for that purpose may employ dental hygienists.

9 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school
10 district or joint school board that has not instituted a program
11 of dental hygiene services as provided under subsection (b) may
12 use a public health dental hygiene practitioner to satisfy the
13 requirements under this section.

14 (d) As used in this section, the term "public health dental
15 hygiene practitioner" shall have the same meaning given to that
16 term in section 2 of the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76),
17 known as "The Dental Law."

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.