

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 177 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, PASHINSKI, GREINER, DIAMOND, ZIMMERMAN AND GRELL, JANUARY 23, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 23, 2015

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 preliminary provisions,  
 6 establishing the Academic Standards Commission and providing  
 7 for its powers and duties.

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

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

13 Section 124. Academic Standards Commission.--(a) There is  
 14 hereby established the Academic Standards Commission to study  
 15 and offer recommendations to the General Assembly, department  
 16 and the State Board concerning the Pennsylvania Core Standards  
 17 as provided for in this section.

18 (b) (1) The commission shall consist of the following  
 19 members:

20 (i) The chair and minority chair of the Education Committee

1 of the Senate and the chair and minority chair of the Education  
2 Committee of the House of Representatives or their designees.  
3 (ii) Five (5) appointees of the President pro tempore of the  
4 Senate as follows:  
5 (A) one (1) public school teacher in this Commonwealth;  
6 (B) one (1) public school administrator in this  
7 Commonwealth;  
8 (C) one (1) member of a board of school directors in this  
9 Commonwealth;  
10 (D) one (1) employee of an institution of higher education  
11 in this Commonwealth who holds an administrative or teaching  
12 position; and  
13 (E) one (1) business or community leader in this  
14 Commonwealth.  
15 (iii) Five (5) appointees of the Speaker of the House of  
16 Representatives as follows:  
17 (A) one (1) public school teacher in this Commonwealth;  
18 (B) one (1) public school administrator in this  
19 Commonwealth;  
20 (C) one (1) member of a board of school directors in this  
21 Commonwealth;  
22 (D) one (1) employee of an institution of higher education  
23 in this Commonwealth who holds an administrative or teaching  
24 position; and  
25 (E) one (1) business or community leader in this  
26 Commonwealth.  
27 (iv) The Secretary of Education or a designee.  
28 (v) The chairman of the State Board or a designee.  
29 (vi) One (1) appointee of the Governor from within the  
30 Governor's Administration.

1     (2) The commission shall appoint a member to serve as chair  
2 of the commission.

3     (3) The commission shall hold its first meeting within  
4 ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section,  
5 regardless of whether every appointment provided for under  
6 paragraph (1) has been made.

7     (4) The commission shall hold meetings at the call of the  
8 chair.

9     (5) Members of the commission shall not receive compensation  
10 for their services, but shall be reimbursed for all necessary  
11 travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with  
12 the performance of their duties as members of the commission.

13     (6) The department shall provide administrative support,  
14 meeting space and any other assistance required by the  
15 commission to carry out its duties under this section. The  
16 department shall also provide the commission with data, research  
17 and other information upon request by the commission.

18     (c) The commission shall have the following powers and  
19 duties:

20     (1) Review and make findings and recommendations related to  
21 the Pennsylvania Core Standards. The recommendations of the  
22 commission may include suggested policy statements, guidelines,  
23 regulations or legislation to be adopted by the General  
24 Assembly, department and State Board and may include suggested  
25 improvements to, or complete replacement of, the Pennsylvania  
26 Core Standards.

27     (2) Consult with and utilize experts to assist the  
28 commission in carrying out its duties under this section.

29     (3) Hold public hearings.

30     (4) Receive input from interested parties.

1 (5) Review and consider academic standards utilized  
2 throughout the United States.

3 (6) Within eighteen (18) months after the commission's first  
4 meeting, issue a report of its findings and recommendations to  
5 the Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the  
6 Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate, the Education  
7 Committee of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
8 Representatives, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the  
9 House of Representatives, the Education Committee of the House  
10 of Representatives, the Secretary of Education and the State  
11 Board.

12 (d) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
13 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
14 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Pennsylvania Core Standards." The Pennsylvania Core  
16 Standards provided for in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to  
17 academic standards and assessment).

18 "Commission." The Academic Standards Commission established  
19 under this section.

20 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
21 Commonwealth.

22 "State Board." The State Board of Education.

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