

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1961 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY ACOSTA, DRISCOLL, TAYLOR, O'BRIEN, BRIGGS,
 LONGIETTI, SCHLOSSBERG, YOUNGBLOOD, STURLA, MURT, THOMAS,
 COHEN, V. BROWN, KINSEY, BULLOCK, DAVIDSON, MAHONEY, ENGLISH,
 STAATS, DAVIS, ROZZI, FLYNN, SAINATO AND SCHREIBER,
 APRIL 7, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 7, 2016

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 terms and courses of study,
 6 further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code
 7 and for economic education and personal financial literacy
 8 programs; providing for personal finance instruction and for
 9 capstone course in personal finance as graduation
 10 requirement; establishing the Personal Finance Education
 11 Fund; and making an appropriation.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Section 1511 of the act of March 10, 1949
 15 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
 16 amended July 31, 1968 (P.L.1020, No.301), is amended to read:

17 Section 1511. Subjects of Instruction; Flag Code.--In every
 18 elementary public and private school, established and maintained
 19 in this Commonwealth, the following subjects shall be taught, in
 20 the English language and from English texts: English, including
 21 spelling, reading and writing, arithmetic, geography, the

1 history of the United States and of Pennsylvania, civics,
2 including loyalty to the State and National Government, personal
3 finance, safety education, and the humane treatment of birds and
4 animals, health, including physical education, and physiology,
5 music and art. Other subjects shall be taught in the public
6 elementary schools and also in the public high schools as may be
7 prescribed by the standards of the State Board of Education. All
8 such subjects, except foreign languages, shall be taught in the
9 English language and from English texts: Provided, however,
10 That, at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public
11 Instruction, the teaching of subjects in a language other than
12 English may be permitted as part of a sequence in foreign
13 language study or as part of a bilingual education program if
14 the teaching personnel are properly certified in the subject
15 fields. Each school district shall provide and distribute to
16 each pupil, enrolled in the eighth grade of the public schools,
17 one illustrated copy of the National Flag Code, and shall, from
18 time to time, make available such copies as are necessary for
19 replacements from year to year. It shall be the duty of each
20 teacher in the public schools to make such use of the code as
21 may, from time to time, seem proper.

22 Section 2. Section 1551 of the act, added November 17, 2010
23 (P.L.996, No.104), is amended to read:

24 Section 1551. [Economic Education and Personal Financial
25 Literacy] Personal Finance Education Programs.--(a) The
26 department shall have the power and its duty shall be to:

27 [(1) Provide resource information on economics, economic
28 education and personal financial literacy to educators and
29 public and private schools and organizations.]

30 (1.1) Ensure that all recipients of a high school diploma in

1 this Commonwealth are proficient in personal finance.

2 (1.2) Develop stand-alone kindergarten through grade twelve
3 academic standards for personal finance that align with this
4 section, sections 1551.1 and 1551.2 and 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4
5 (relating to academic standards and assessment).

6 (1.3) Provide resource information on personal finance to
7 educators and public and private schools and organizations.

8 (1.4) Within one year after the effective date of this
9 paragraph, submit a report to the Education Committee of the
10 Senate and the Education Committee of the House of
11 Representatives with data on Statewide assessment results for
12 questions relating to financial literacy.

13 (2) Provide for the distribution, including through the
14 department's Internet website, to school entities or private,
15 nonpublic, elementary or secondary schools in this Commonwealth,
16 teacher curriculum materials and other available resources,
17 including [economic] personal finance education [partnership]
18 programs[, on economic education and personal financial
19 literacy, including the basic principle involved with earning,
20 spending, saving and investing money. The materials shall align
21 with and complement existing State standards for Economics,
22 Family and Consumer Science, and Career Education and Work as
23 set forth in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic standards
24 and assessment)]. The materials shall align with State standards
25 for personal finance education in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 that the
26 department develops in accordance with this act.

27 [(3) Identify and recognize Commonwealth schools that
28 implement exemplary economic and economic education and personal
29 financial literacy curricula at each benchmark as set forth in
30 existing State standards for Economics, Family and Consumer

1 Science, and Career Education and Work as set forth in 22 Pa.
2 Code Ch. 4.]

3 (4) Maintain an inventory of [economic education and
4 personal financial literacy] personal finance materials,
5 programs and resources available in Commonwealth agencies.

6 (b) In distributing materials and resources for use in
7 schools, the department shall consider those currently available
8 through international, national, Statewide and local economic,
9 banking trade and personal finance education organizations.

10 [(c) (1) The department shall convene a task force on
11 economic education and personal financial literacy education
12 within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section.

13 (2) The task force shall consist of nine (9) members
14 appointed by the secretary, in consultation with the Secretary
15 of Banking, representing school administrators, finance or
16 economics teachers, school boards, students, business leaders,
17 faculty from this Commonwealth's institutions of higher
18 education having a background in or knowledge of personal
19 financial literacy and other groups with expertise in financial
20 literacy education. The task force shall elect one (1) of its
21 members to serve as chairperson.

22 (3) The task force shall:

23 (i) Assess the trends and needs in economic education and
24 personal financial literacy.

25 (ii) Consider the manner in which any funds are used to
26 support economic education and personal financial literacy
27 activities.

28 (iii) Make recommendations to the Governor and the General
29 Assembly regarding legislative or regulatory changes to improve
30 economic education and personal financial literacy, pursuant to

1 the preparation and submittal of the report required by
2 subsection (d).]

3 (c.1) (1) The Office of Personal Finance Education is
4 established in the department to oversee personal finance
5 education programs.

6 (2) The Office of Personal Finance Education shall:

7 (i) Assess the trends and needs in personal finance
8 education.

9 (ii) After completing the assessment under subparagraph (i),
10 assist in developing personal finance curricula in consultation
11 with the State Treasurer, school administrators, finance or
12 economics teachers, school boards, students, business leaders,
13 faculty from this Commonwealth's institutions of higher
14 education having a background in or knowledge of personal
15 financial literacy and other groups with expertise in financial
16 literacy education.

17 (iii) Create professional development programs for faculty
18 to teach personal finance.

19 (iv) Make recommendations to the Governor and the General
20 Assembly regarding legislative or regulatory changes to improve
21 personal finance education and personal financial literacy,
22 pursuant to the preparation and submittal of the report required
23 by subsection (d).

24 (d) The secretary and the [Secretary of Banking] State
25 Treasurer shall jointly prepare and submit[, in conjunction with
26 the task force,] a biennial report to the Governor and the
27 General Assembly on the status of [economic education and]
28 personal financial literacy programs in this Commonwealth. In
29 addition to the recommendations made in accordance with
30 subsection [(c) (3) (iii)] (c.1) (2) (iv), the report shall outline

1 [economic education and personal financial literacy] personal
2 finance education programs and personal financial literacy
3 achievements, highlight new initiatives and recommend future
4 program needs.

5 [(e) The department may apply for any Federal, State or
6 other funding that may be available to carry out the provisions
7 of this section and may also use such unencumbered funds for
8 grants to school entities and other measures to encourage the
9 implementation of economic education and personal financial
10 literacy education programs.]

11 (e.1) The department may implement this section by
12 distributing grants to school entities for personal finance
13 education programs and professional development with funding
14 from any of the following sources:

15 (1) A State appropriation.

16 (2) Any Federal, State or other source that may be available
17 to carry out the provisions of this section.

18 (f) The following words and phrases when used in this
19 section shall have the meanings given to them in this
20 subsection:

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

23 ["Personal financial literacy." The integration of various
24 factors relating to personal financial management, including
25 understanding financial institutions, using money, learning to
26 manage personal assets and liabilities, creating budgets and any
27 other factors that may assist an individual in this Commonwealth
28 to be financially responsible.]

29 "Personal finance." The principles and methods that
30 individuals use to acquire and manage income and assets.

1 "Personal financial literacy." The ability to use knowledge
2 and skills to manage one's financial resources for lifetime
3 financial security.

4 "School entity." A public school district, charter school,
5 cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area vocational-
6 technical school.

7 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

8 Section 3. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

9 Section 1551.1. Personal Finance Instruction.--(a)

10 Beginning with school year 2016-2017 and each school year
11 thereafter, each public school student shall receive instruction
12 in personal finance from kindergarten through grade twelve. The
13 instruction shall be aligned to the kindergarten through grade
14 twelve academic standards for personal finance and may be
15 integrated within mathematics, economics, social studies,
16 language arts, business education or family and consumer science
17 courses of study required in accordance with the State Board of
18 Education regulations. Instruction may also be integrated into
19 other appropriate courses of study.

20 (b) The instruction:

21 (1) Shall be age appropriate.

22 (2) Shall be sequential in method of study.

23 (3) Shall communicate the connection between personal
24 finance concepts, broader economic concepts and age-appropriate
25 situations a student may experience.

26 (4) Shall communicate personal finance concepts, including,
27 but not limited to, the following:

28 (i) Money management.

29 (ii) Earning income.

30 (iii) Borrowing money.

1 (iv) Financial services.
2 (v) Risk management.
3 (vi) Saving and investing.
4 (vii) Other personal finance concepts specified by the State
5 Board of Education in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic
6 standards and assessment).

7 (5) Shall prepare a student for life after graduation.

8 Section 1551.2. Capstone Course in Personal Finance as
9 Graduation Requirement.--(a) The State Board of Education shall
10 require every candidate for a full high school diploma after
11 September 2016 to receive at least one (1) semester of
12 instruction in a stand-alone capstone course relating to
13 personal finance at some time during grade eleven or twelve of
14 the candidate's educational career.

15 (b) In order to fulfill this graduation requirement, school
16 districts may choose from several delivery options for offering
17 the course, including classroom instruction, which shall be the
18 equivalent of one (1) semester or one-half (0.5) credit, or as a
19 standards-aligned, self-paced online or blended course which
20 includes a district-approved, end-of-course assessment.

21 (c) Each school entity may utilize educational materials as
22 provided for in section 1551 for the purpose of fulfilling this
23 graduation requirement.

24 (d) The Department of Education shall make available and
25 conduct professional development to school districts that
26 request assistance in implementing the provisions of this
27 section.

28 (e) As used in this section, "capstone course" means a
29 course of study that:

30 (1) occurs during grade eleven or twelve of a student's high

1 school career;

2 (2) is designed to bring reflection and focus to the whole
3 of the student's learning throughout the student's years of
4 education on a particular subject;

5 (3) is a comprehensive review of the subject matter being
6 considered; and

7 (4) effectively culminates in each student demonstrating a
8 comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

9 Section 1551.3. Personal Finance Education Fund.--(a) The
10 Personal Finance Education Fund is established in the State
11 Treasury. The money of the fund shall be used for grants under
12 section 1551(e.1).

13 (b) The fund shall consist of all money collected by the
14 Commonwealth under subsection (c) and money solicited by the
15 State Treasurer under subsection (d).

16 (c) (1) The Department of Revenue shall provide a space on
17 the Pennsylvania individual income tax return form whereby an
18 individual may voluntarily designate a contribution of any
19 amount desired to the Personal Finance Education Fund.

20 (2) The amount designated under paragraph (1) by an
21 individual on the income tax return form shall be deducted from
22 the tax refund to which that individual is entitled and shall
23 not constitute a charge against the income tax revenues due to
24 the Commonwealth.

25 (3) The Department of Revenue shall determine annually the
26 total amount designated pursuant to this subsection, less
27 reasonable administrative costs, and shall report the amount to
28 the State Treasurer, who shall transfer the amount from the
29 General Fund to the Personal Finance Education Fund.

30 (d) The State Treasurer shall solicit money for the Personal

1 Finance Education Fund and may designate employes of the
2 Treasury Department to carry out this duty.

3 Section 4. The sum of \$3,000,000 is hereby appropriated to
4 the Department of Education for the purpose of administering
5 this act.

6 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.