

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2065 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, SAMUELSON, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, NEILSON, MURT, ENGLISH, BOBACK, PASHINSKI, KIRKLAND, D. COSTA, YOUNGBLOOD, ROEBUCK, HILL-EVANS, WATSON, ROZZI AND TOBASH, FEBRUARY 8, 2018

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 13, 2018

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program; and
2 providing for duties of the Department of Education, the
3 State Board of Education, intermediate units and public
4 school entities.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Older Adult
9 Mentor Volunteer Program (MVP) Act.

10 Section 2. Legislative intent.

11 The intent of this act is to facilitate the exchange of
12 knowledge between generations, using the experience and wisdom
13 of retired older adults to enrich the lives and futures of this
14 Commonwealth's young people.

15 Section 3. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
17 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Department." The Department of Education of the
3 Commonwealth.

4 "Intermediate unit." An intermediate unit established under
5 Article IX-A of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
6 as the Public School Code of 1949.

7 "Older adult." An individual who is 60 years of age or
8 older.

9 "Program." The Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program (MVP)
10 established in section 4.

11 "School entity." A public school district, INTERMEDIATE <--
12 UNIT, charter school, REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL or area <--
13 vocational-technical school.

14 "State board." The State Board of Education.
15 Section 4. ~~Establishment.~~ OLDER ADULT MENTOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. <--

16 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--The Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program
17 (MVP) is established in furtherance of expanding opportunities
18 for qualified older adult volunteers to work directly with
19 students before, during or after school hours, in school
20 buildings and facilities and on school grounds. The purpose of
21 the program is to:

22 (1) Enable older adults to impart the wisdom that they
23 have accrued to the next generation and to share their unique
24 professions, skills and experiences with students.

25 (2) Provide opportunities for students to explore areas
26 of interest and develop skills, knowledge and experience in a
27 variety of subjects, trades and hobbies.

28 (B) PARTICIPATION.-- <--

29 (1) NO SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL BE REQUIRED TO UTILIZE THE
30 SERVICES OF QUALIFIED MVP VOLUNTEERS OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

1 PROGRAM BEYOND THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 7(B) .

2 (2) THE PROGRAM SHALL NOT SUPERSEDE OR RESTRICT ANY
3 SCHOOL DISTRICT VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS OPERATING OUTSIDE OF THE
4 PROGRAM.

5 Section 5. Guidelines.

6 The department, in consultation with the State board, shall
7 develop guidelines for the program. The guidelines shall ensure
8 the development of a program which will use the wisdom and
9 talents of older adults to enhance the personal, educational and
10 professional experiences of students. The guidelines shall
11 include the following:

12 (1) The respective roles of school entities and
13 intermediate units in program implementation and evaluation.

14 (2) Policies and procedures for operation of the program
15 by school entities in coordination with intermediate units.

16 (3) Identification of methods for use in fostering
17 participation in the program.

18 (4) Development and dissemination of application forms.

19 Section 6. Registry.

20 The department shall develop and maintain, in coordination
21 with intermediate units, a central registry of older adult
22 volunteers to facilitate matching older adult volunteers with
23 students. The department shall provide electronic access to the
24 registry to intermediate units and school entities.

25 Section 7. Application procedures.

26 (a) General rule.--An interested older adult may apply for
27 participation in the program by submitting an application to an
28 intermediate unit. The applicant shall indicate the school
29 entity or school entities for which the applicant proposes to
30 volunteer.

1 (b) Duties of intermediate units, school entities and State
2 and local agencies.--Intermediate units, school entities and
3 area agencies on aging shall furnish program applications to
4 older adults upon request. Applications may also be submitted
5 electronically through the publicly accessible Internet websites
6 of the department and the Department of Aging. A school entity
7 or a State or local agency, other than an intermediate unit,
8 that receives an application shall forward the application to
9 the appropriate intermediate unit for review and processing.

10 (c) Review.--Upon receipt of an application, an intermediate
11 unit shall review the application and, subject to 23 Pa.C.S. §
12 6344.2 (relating to volunteers having contact with children),
13 shall approve the application and add the applicant to the
14 registry.

15 (d) Compliance with policies.--An older adult volunteer must
16 comply with the applicable policies of the school entity for
17 which the volunteer has applied to serve.

18 Section 8. Orientation and training.

19 A school entity that uses the services of older adult
20 volunteers shall link older adults with students according to
21 academic interests, professional pursuits, hobbies, skills or an
22 identified need for an enriching exchange with an older adult
23 volunteer.

24 Section 9. Public awareness program.

25 The department shall undertake efforts to make older adults,
26 students and school entities aware of the existence and purpose
27 of the program. The department and school entities shall also
28 undertake efforts aimed at recruiting older adult volunteers.
29 School entities shall identify students that may benefit from
30 the program.

1 Section 10. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect in 60 days.