

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2116 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, GRELL, GINGRICH, MURT AND MOUL,
MARCH 19, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 19, 2014

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," providing for academic standards and
6 testing commission.

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

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

12 Section 123. Academic Standards and Testing Commission.--(a)
13 The State Board shall establish an Academic Standards and
14 Testing Commission to study and offer recommendations to the
15 State Board concerning the Commonwealth's academic standards and
16 assessments as provided for in this section.

17 (b) (1) Not earlier than January 1, 2017, but not later
18 than February 1, 2017, the State Board shall appoint the members
19 of the commission, which shall include representatives of the
20 State Board, the department, business, school districts, charter

1 schools, cyber charter schools, regional charter schools, area
2 vocational-technical schools, intermediate units, the State
3 System of Higher Education, State-related universities,
4 community colleges, independent colleges and universities and
5 the United States Armed Forces.

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

8 (3) After appointing the commission pursuant to paragraph
9 (1), the State Board shall convene the first meeting of the
10 commission by March 1, 2017. The commission shall hold future
11 meetings at the call of the chair.

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

16 (5) The department shall provide administrative support,
17 meeting space and any other assistance required by the
18 commission to carry out its duties under this section. The
19 department shall also provide the commission and the State Board
20 with data, research and other information upon request by the
21 commission or the State Board.

22 (c) The commission shall have the following powers and
23 duties:

24 (1) Review and make findings and recommendations related to
25 the Commonwealth's academic standards and assessments.

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

28 (3) Hold public hearings.

29 (4) Receive input from interested parties.

30 (5) Review and consider academic standards and assessments

1 utilized throughout the United States.

2 (6) Within two (2) years after the commission's first
3 meeting, issue a report of its findings and recommendations to
4 the Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the
5 Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate, the Education
6 Committee of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
8 House of Representatives, the Education Committee of the House
9 of Representatives, the Secretary of Education and the State
10 Board.

11 (d) Upon receipt of the report required under subsection (c)
12 (6), the State Board shall consider the report and promulgate
13 regulations necessary to implement the recommendations pursuant
14 to the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the
15 "Regulatory Review Act."

16 (e) Every five (5) years following issuance of the
17 commission's report under subsection (c)(6), the commission
18 shall be reconstituted in accordance with subsection (b), shall
19 meet and hold public hearings to review the operation of the
20 Commonwealth's academic standards and assessments, shall make a
21 further report and shall issue the report to the recipients
22 listed in subsection (c)(6). When in receipt of a further report
23 recommending changes to the Commonwealth's academic standards
24 and assessments, the State Board shall consider the report and
25 promulgate regulations necessary to implement the
26 recommendations pursuant to the "Regulatory Review Act."

27 (f) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
28 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
29 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

30 "Academic standards." The academic standards established

1 pursuant to 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 (relating to academic
2 standards and assessment).

3 "Assessment." The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment
4 test, the Keystone Exam or another test established by the State
5 Board pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 4.51(f) (relating to State
6 assessment system).

7 "Commission." The Academic Standards and Testing Commission
8 established under this section.

9 "Department." The Department of Education of the
10 Commonwealth.

11 "State Board." The State Board of Education.

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