

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL**No. 2381** Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TURZAI, TOBASH, SAYLOR, REED, ADOLPH, CUTLER,
MAJOR, ELLIS, OBERLANDER, WARD, GREINER, TRUITT, LAWRENCE,
FEE, PHILLIPS-HILL, M. K. KELLER, WARNER, RAPP, STAATS,
MILLARD, GODSHALL, KAUFFMAN, QUIGLEY, TOPPER, IRVIN, PICKETT,
MALONEY, ZIMMERMAN, GOODMAN, D. PARKER, HELM, GILLEN,
MARSHALL, PEIFER, GROVE, BENNINGHOFF, DAVIS, BARBIN, NELSON
AND ENGLISH, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OCTOBER 18, 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 preliminary provisions, further
6 providing for Keystone Exams.

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

9 Section 1. Section 121(a) of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
11 amended February 3, 2016 (P.L.1. No.1), is amended and the
12 section is amended by adding subsections to read:

13 Section 121. Keystone Exams.--(a) [Subject to annual
14 appropriation, not later than the 2020-2021 school year, the]
15 The Department of Education shall develop and implement Keystone
16 Exams in [the following subjects:] algebra I, literature[,
17 biology, English composition, algebra II, geometry, United

1 States history, chemistry, civics and government and world
2 history.] and biology. The State Board of Education shall
3 promulgate regulations, subject to the act of June 25, 1982
4 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act,"
5 necessary to implement this section.

6 * * *

7 (c) Notwithstanding section 2604-B(b)(2)(v), 22 Pa. Code §
8 4.24 (relating to high school graduation requirements) or 4.51
9 (relating to State assessment system) or any statute or
10 regulation to the contrary, in any school year in which a
11 demonstration of proficiency on a Keystone Exam is required for
12 high school graduation, a student who participates in vocational <--
13 education as provided under Article XVIII either in an area
14 vocational technical school or in a school district shall be
15 permitted to demonstrate proficiency on a NOCTI exam in lieu of
16 demonstrating proficiency on one Keystone Exam. The Department
17 of Education shall set a performance level for proficiency on
18 the NOCTI exam, which the State Board of Education shall approve
19 within six (6) months of the effective date of this section.

20 (d) As used in this section, the term "NOCTI exam" means the
21 National Occupational Competency Testing Institute exam. A CTE <--
22 CONCENTRATOR SHALL BE DEEMED PROFICIENT PROVIDED THAT THE CTE
23 CONCENTRATOR SHALL MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

24 (1) COMPLETES LOCALLY ESTABLISHED GRADE-BASED REQUIREMENTS
25 FOR ACADEMIC CONTENT AREAS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH KEYSTONE EXAM ON
26 WHICH THE CTE CONCENTRATOR DID NOT ACHIEVE PROFICIENCY. FOR THE
27 PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, COMPLETION OF GRADE-BASED
28 REQUIREMENTS IN ANY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT AND
29 ECOLOGY COURSE SHALL SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC
30 CONTENT AREA ASSOCIATED WITH THE KEYSTONE EXAM IN BIOLOGY; AND

1 (2) COMPLETES ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

2 (I) ATTAINS AN INDUSTRY-BASED COMPETENCY CERTIFICATION
3 RELATED TO THE CTE CONCENTRATOR'S PROGRAM OF STUDY; OR

4 (II) DEMONSTRATES A HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS ON AN
5 APPROVED INDUSTRY-BASED COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT OR READINESS FOR
6 CONTINUED MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT IN THE CTE CONCENTRATOR'S
7 PROGRAM OF STUDY AS DEMONSTRATED BY PERFORMANCE ON BENCHMARK
8 ASSESSMENTS, COURSE GRADES AND OTHER FACTORS CONSISTENT WITH THE
9 CTE CONCENTRATOR'S GOALS AND CAREER PLAN.

10 (D) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES
11 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION UNLESS
12 THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

13 "APPROVED INDUSTRY-BASED COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT." A NOCTI
14 EXAM, NIMS ASSESSMENT OR OTHER INDUSTRY-BASED COMPETENCY
15 ASSESSMENT IDENTIFIED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND APPROVED
16 BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

17 "CTE CONCENTRATOR." A STUDENT WHO, BY THE END OF A REPORTING
18 YEAR, WILL BE REPORTED AS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING AT LEAST 50
19 PERCENT OF THE MINIMUM TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS REQUIRED
20 UNDER 22 PA. CODE CH. 339 (RELATING TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION).

21 "NIMS ASSESSMENT." AN ASSESSMENT BASED ON THE NATIONAL
22 INSTITUTE FOR METALWORKING SKILLS STANDARDS.

23 "NOCTI EXAM." A NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL COMPETENCY TESTING
24 INSTITUTE EXAM.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.