

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2477 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ AND GUENST, APRIL 4, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 4, 2022

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 safe schools, providing for policy
6 relating to clear backpacks.

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 1303.2-A. Policy Relating to Clear Backpacks.--(a)
13 No later than January 1, 2023, the governing board of a school
14 entity or nonpublic school shall adopt a policy or amend its
15 existing policy to mandate the use of clear backpacks by
16 students attending middle and high schools in its purview and
17 incorporate the policy into the school entity or nonpublic
18 school's code of student conduct. The policy shall include
19 exceptions for medically necessary supplies and small pouches or
20 purses in the backpack for menstruation supplies upon

1 inspection. The policy shall specify disciplinary consequences
2 for noncompliance with the policy, provided that a governing
3 board of a school entity or nonpublic school may not be required
4 to establish a new policy under this section if a policy exists
5 and reasonably fulfills the requirements of this section. The
6 policy shall identify the appropriate school staff person to
7 receive reports of noncompliance.

8 (b) A school entity or nonpublic school subject to
9 subsection (a) shall:

10 (1) make its policy available on the publicly accessible
11 Internet website of the school entity or nonpublic school;

12 (2) post the policy in a prominent location in every school
13 building where such notices are usually posted;

14 (3) ensure that the policy and procedures for reporting
15 noncompliance are reviewed with students within ninety (90) days
16 after the adoption of the policy and procedures; and

17 (4) after the review under paragraph (3) occurs, complete an
18 additional review with students at least once every school year.

19 (c) The governing board of a school entity or nonpublic
20 school subject to subsection (a) shall review its policy every
21 three (3) years and revise the policy, if necessary.

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