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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2897 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY WEBSTER, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, HOHENSTEIN, MADDEN,  
DELLOSO AND GUENST, OCTOBER 25, 2022

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 25, 2022

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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 school directors, further  
6 providing for school director training programs.

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

9 Section 1. Section 328(a) introductory paragraph and (b)  
10 introductory paragraph of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,  
11 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, are amended and  
12 the section is amended by adding subsections to read:

13 Section 328. School Director Training Programs.--(a)  
14 [Beginning in] For the 2018-2019 school year [and in each school  
15 year thereafter] through the 2022-2023 school year, the  
16 following shall apply:

17 \* \* \*

18 (a.1) For the 2023-2024 school year and in each school year  
19 thereafter, the following shall apply:

20 (1) Each newly elected or appointed school director shall

1 complete, during the first year of the school director's first  
2 term, a training program made available by the Department of  
3 Education, in consultation with a Statewide organization  
4 representing school directors and a Statewide organization  
5 representing school business officials, pertaining to the skills  
6 and knowledge necessary to serve as a school director. The  
7 training program shall consist of a minimum of fourteen (14)  
8 hours of instruction, which may be determined by the Department  
9 of Education, and shall include, at a minimum, information  
10 regarding the following:

11 (i) Instruction and academic programs.

12 (ii) Best practices related to trauma-informed approaches,  
13 which shall comprise a minimum of one (1) hour of instruction.

14 (iii) Personnel.

15 (iv) Fiscal management.

16 (v) Operations.

17 (vi) Governance.

18 (vii) Ethics and open meetings, to include the requirements  
19 under 65 Pa.C.S. Pt. II.

20 (2) Except as provided in subsection (a.1)(1), each year,  
21 each school director shall complete an advanced training program  
22 made available by the Department of Education in consultation  
23 with a Statewide organization representing school directors and  
24 a Statewide organization representing school business officials.  
25 The advanced training program shall consist of a minimum of four  
26 (4) hours of instruction, including information on relevant  
27 changes to information covered in the initial training course,  
28 such as Federal and State public school law and regulations,  
29 fiscal management, trauma-informed approaches and other  
30 information deemed appropriate by the Department of Education to

1 enable the school director to serve effectively. If there are no  
2 changes to the information covered in the initial training  
3 course, instruction may include other professional development  
4 activities as determined by the Department of Education. School  
5 districts may make recommendations on instructional content.

6 (3) The training programs required under this subsection  
7 shall be made available by the Department of Education at no  
8 cost to school districts or school directors. The Department of  
9 Education shall approve alternative training programs that  
10 fulfill the requirements of this subsection which may be  
11 provided by school districts, intermediate units, postsecondary  
12 institutions or Statewide education organizations. The  
13 Department of Education shall post on its publicly accessible  
14 Internet website all alternative training programs approved  
15 under this paragraph.

16 (4) This subsection shall apply to members of a school  
17 reform commission established under section 696, provided that  
18 the training programs provided to members of a school reform  
19 commission shall include information regarding sections 693 and  
20 696 and other information deemed appropriate to enable a member  
21 of a school reform commission to serve effectively.

22 (b) [Beginning in] For the 2018-2019 school year[, and in  
23 each school year thereafter] through the 2022-2023 school year,  
24 the following shall apply:

25 \* \* \*

26 (b.1) For the 2023-2024 school year and in each school year  
27 thereafter, the following shall apply:

28 (1) Each newly appointed trustee of a charter school entity  
29 shall complete, within the trustee's first year of service, a  
30 training program made available by the Department of Education,

1 in consultation with Statewide organizations representing  
2 charter school entities, pertaining to the skills and knowledge  
3 necessary to serve as a charter school entity trustee. The  
4 training program shall consist of a minimum of fourteen (14)  
5 hours of instruction, which may be determined by the Department  
6 of Education, and shall include, at a minimum, the information  
7 listed in subsection (a.1)(1) and information concerning Article  
8 XVII-A.

9 (2) Except as provided in (b.1)(1), each year, each trustee  
10 shall complete an advanced training program made available by  
11 the Department of Education in consultation with Statewide  
12 organizations representing charter school entities. The advanced  
13 training program shall consist of a minimum of four (4) hours of  
14 instruction, including information on relevant changes to  
15 information covered in the initial training course, such as  
16 Federal and State public school law and regulations, including  
17 Article XVII-A, fiscal management, trauma-informed approaches  
18 and other information deemed appropriate by the Department of  
19 Education to enable the trustee to serve effectively. If there  
20 are no changes to the information covered in the initial  
21 training course, instruction may include other professional  
22 development activities as determined by the Department of  
23 Education. Charter school entities may make recommendations on  
24 instructional content.

25 (3) The training programs required under this subsection  
26 shall be made available by the Department of Education at no  
27 cost to charter school entities or charter school entity  
28 trustees. The Department of Education shall approve alternative  
29 training programs that fulfill the requirements of this  
30 subsection which may be provided by charter school entities,

1 school districts, intermediate units, postsecondary  
2 institutions, Statewide organizations representing charter  
3 school entities or other Statewide education organizations. The  
4 Department of Education shall post on its publicly accessible  
5 Internet website all alternative training programs approved  
6 under this paragraph.

7 \* \* \*

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