
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 932 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, BERNSTINE, EMRICK AND HELM,
MARCH 16, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 16, 2021

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, providing for
6 county-wide board of school directors pilot program.

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 330. County-Wide Board of School Directors Pilot
13 Program.--(a) The General Assembly finds and declares as
14 follows:

15 (1) The Commonwealth's system of public education is
16 presently comprised of five hundred (500) independently
17 operating school districts.

18 (2) School districts are governed by locally elected school
19 boards, which are responsible for establishing educational
20 programs and local policies, maintaining school buildings and

1 developing and approving school district budgets, including the
2 imposition of a local property tax.

3 (3) It is important that school board members be informed in
4 making decisions for their school districts and be encouraged to
5 pursue creative solutions that both enhance educational
6 opportunities for their students and use taxpayer resources
7 efficiently and effectively.

8 (4) Collaboration among school board members representing
9 neighboring school districts should increase in order to
10 leverage ideas and resources.

11 (5) It is the intent of this section to foster increased
12 collaborative decision-making among school boards by creating a
13 pilot program that will consolidate school boards to the county-
14 wide level.

15 (b) Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this
16 section, the Secretary of Education shall designate a county of
17 the fourth class in which shall be established a county-wide
18 board of school directors that shall have the power and duty to
19 govern each school district which is located in whole or in part
20 within the county. In designating a county of the fourth class
21 under this subsection, the Secretary of Education shall consider
22 the local tax effort of the school districts within the county
23 to be designated, including whether the equalized millage rate
24 of each school district is greater than the Statewide average
25 equalized millage rate.

26 (c) Within one (1) year of the effective date of this
27 section, notwithstanding any other provision of law or
28 regulation to the contrary, all powers and duties of the board
29 of school directors of each school district that is located in
30 whole or in part within the county designated under subsection

1 (b) shall be vested in a county-wide board of school directors
2 to be established under subsection (d).

3 (d) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the county-wide
4 board of school directors established under this section shall
5 consist of two (2) members representing each school district
6 which is located in whole or in part within the county
7 designated under subsection (b). Each qualified voter residing
8 in a school district to be governed by the county-wide board of
9 school directors shall be entitled to cast votes for two (2)
10 individuals who reside in that school district under guidelines
11 which the Department of State, in consultation with the board of
12 elections for the county designated under subsection (b), shall
13 establish for this purpose within ninety (90) days of the
14 effective date of this section.

15 (2) If the election of two (2) school directors representing
16 each school district which is located in whole or in part within
17 the county designated under subsection (b) would result in the
18 election of an even number of school directors, each qualified
19 voter residing in a school district to be governed by the
20 county-wide board of school directors also shall be entitled to
21 cast a vote for an additional at large school director, who
22 shall reside within a school district to be governed by the
23 county-wide board of school directors, under guidelines which
24 the Department of State, in consultation with the board of
25 elections for the county designated under subsection (b), shall
26 establish for this purpose within ninety (90) days of the
27 effective date of this section.

28 (3) Where any of the school districts to be governed by the
29 county-wide board of school directors is located in part within
30 a county other than the county designated under subsection (b),

1 the boards of elections for all counties in which such school
2 districts are located in whole or in part shall cooperate with
3 the Department of State in the establishment of the guidelines
4 required under this subsection.

5 (e) The members of the county-wide board of school directors
6 established under this section shall have the power and duty to
7 cast votes with respect to the affairs of all school districts
8 that are governed by the county-wide board of school directors,
9 notwithstanding each member's school district of residence.

10 (f) The office of county-wide school director shall be
11 considered a full-time, paid position. Members of the county-
12 wide board of school directors shall receive compensation in the
13 form and amount that shall be determined by the Secretary of
14 Education and shall be paid jointly by the school districts
15 governed by the county-wide board of school directors. Each
16 school district shall pay for the compensation of the two (2)
17 school directors representing that school district as well as an
18 equal share of the compensation of any at large school director
19 elected under subsection (d) (2) and shall provide administrative
20 support, office space and any other assistance necessary to
21 carry out the duties of this section. Office space for any at
22 large school director elected under subsection (d) (2) shall be
23 provided by the school district in which the at large school
24 director resides.

25 (g) Individuals serving as county-wide school directors
26 under this section shall not have the right to elect membership
27 in the Public School Employees' Retirement System established
28 under 24 Pa.C.S. Pt. IV (relating to retirement for school
29 employees) or the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement
30 System established under 71 Pa.C.S. Pt. XXV (relating to

1 retirement for State employees and officers), nor shall service
2 as a county-wide school director under this section be eligible
3 for credit in the Public School Employees' Retirement System or
4 the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System.

5 (h) This section shall expire ten (10) years after the
6 effective date of this section. Elections to the board of school
7 directors of each individual school district governed by the
8 county-wide board of school directors established under this
9 section shall occur during the calendar year immediately prior
10 to expiration of this section under procedures provided in this
11 act and in the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as
12 the "Pennsylvania Election Code."

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