

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1500 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, OCTOBER 14, 2014

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, OCTOBER 14, 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," in general provisions, providing for  
 6 the Dual Enrollment Expansion Task Force.

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 124. Dual Enrollment Expansion Tank Force.--(a) The  
 13 Dual Enrollment Expansion Tank Force is established.

14 (b) The task force shall review and make recommendations for  
 15 expanding dual enrollment and advanced placement opportunities  
 16 that allow students to obtain college credits while in high  
 17 school to ultimately make college education more affordable, as  
 18 provided in this section.

19 (c) The task force shall consist of the following members:

20 (1) The chairman and the minority chairman of the Education

1 Committee of the Senate and the chairman and the minority  
2 chairman of the Education Committee of the House of  
3 Representatives.

4 (2) The Secretary of Education or a designee.

5 (3) The Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary  
6 Education or a designee.

7 (4) The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Postsecondary and  
8 Higher Education or a designee.

9 (5) The Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education  
10 or a designee.

11 (6) The presidents of each of the Commonwealth's four State-  
12 related universities or their designees.

13 (7) The president of the Pennsylvania Commission for  
14 Community Colleges or a designee.

15 (8) The president of the Association of Independent Colleges  
16 and Universities of Pennsylvania or a designee.

17 (9) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of Private  
18 School Administrators or a designee.

19 (10) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of School  
20 Administrators or a designee.

21 (11) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of School  
22 Business Officials or a designee.

23 (12) The president of the Pennsylvania School Boards  
24 Association or a designee.

25 (13) The president of the Philadelphia Federation of  
26 Teachers or a designee.

27 (14) The president of the Pennsylvania State Education  
28 Association or a designee.

29 (15) The president of the Association of Pennsylvania State  
30 College and University Faculties or a designee.

1 (16) Two representatives of Pennsylvania's broadband cable  
2 industry, one each to be selected by the President pro tempore  
3 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

4 (17) The president of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business  
5 and Industry or a designee.

6 (d) The members of task force shall select a member to serve  
7 as chair of the task force.

8 (e) The task force shall hold its first meeting within  
9 forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this section.

10 (f) The task force shall hold meetings at the call of the  
11 chair.

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

16 (h) The task force may employ technical and clerical staff  
17 as it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities under  
18 this section.

19 (i) The General Assembly shall provide administrative  
20 support, meeting space and any other assistance required by the  
21 task force to carry out its duties under this section in  
22 cooperation with the department. The department shall provide  
23 the task force with data, research and other information upon  
24 request by the task force.

25 (j) The task force shall have all of the following powers  
26 and duties:

27 (1) Review and make findings and recommendations for the  
28 addition or expansion of dual enrollment programs in this  
29 Commonwealth.

30 (2) Review and make findings and recommendations for the

1 expansion of advanced placement options in this Commonwealth.

2 (3) Consult with and utilize experts to assist in carrying  
3 out the duties under this subsection.

4 (4) Receive input from interested parties, including, but  
5 not limited to, school districts, career and technical schools,  
6 institutions of higher education, the College Board, Department  
7 of Labor, media and Internet companies and trade associations.

8 (5) Meet with all segments of the basic and higher education  
9 communities, representatives of the State's business and labor  
10 communities and Internet service providers operating within this  
11 Commonwealth to discuss their potential involvement in the  
12 operation of a State virtual dual-enrollment, blended or hybrid  
13 high school program.

14 (6) Meet with current operators of Internet-based  
15 educational programs operating within this Commonwealth,  
16 including those operated by school districts, intermediate units  
17 and blended and hybrid high school programs.

18 (7) Hold public hearings in different regions of this  
19 Commonwealth, consistent with the following:

20 (i) All meetings and public hearings of the task force shall  
21 be deemed public meetings for the purpose of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch.7  
22 (relating to open meetings).

23 (ii) Seven (7) members of the task force shall constitute a  
24 quorum at any meeting.

25 (iii) Each member of the task force may designate another  
26 person to represent that member at meetings of the task force.

27 (8) Review and consider factors of college credit expansion  
28 to high school students, including, but not limited to, access  
29 to the advanced placement program and testing that is utilized  
30 throughout the United States.

1 (9) Identify the following types of classes taught in this  
2 Commonwealth:

3 (i) High school courses taught by college instructors for  
4 neighboring higher education institutions.

5 (ii) Career and certification courses taught in high schools  
6 by community college instructors.

7 (iii) Hybrid learning opportunities listed in subparagraphs  
8 (i) and (ii) where students will earn college credit in a  
9 combination of the classroom, online learning, on college  
10 campuses and in the workplace.

11 (10) Consider courses to be offered when adding or expanding  
12 options already in place, including how courses will be selected  
13 and assessed.

14 (11) Consider policies for awarding college credit and the  
15 means for program accountability.

16 (12) In identifying the factors needed to expand dual  
17 enrollment and the advanced placement program and testing and in  
18 completing the report required under paragraph (21), consider  
19 the impact these factors may have on the distribution of basic  
20 education funding among the school districts.

21 (13) Consider methods for funding the expansion of dual  
22 enrollment and the advanced placement program, including cost  
23 estimates.

24 (14) Review the administration of State and regional basic  
25 education programs and services to determine if cost savings may  
26 be achieved while expanding the ability of students to obtain  
27 college credit in high school and make recommendations to  
28 implement the savings.

29 (15) Consider the advantages and disadvantages of a uniform  
30 articulation agreement for each school district in relation to

1 the level of State basic education funding the school district  
2 received in the prior school year.

3 (16) Identify and facilitate opportunities for academically  
4 talented students in economically distressed school districts to  
5 complete their junior and senior years at an area community  
6 college or university.

7 (17) Review faculty issues arising from the expansion of  
8 dual enrollment arrangements and advanced placement courses and  
9 programs, including salaries, employe status in arrangements for  
10 reporting purposes, certification, training, professional  
11 development and evaluation.

12 (18) Assure maximum accessibility to expanded dual  
13 enrollment and advanced placement opportunities for all high  
14 school students in all geographic locations.

15 (19) Develop a proposed plan incorporating the essential  
16 factors for expanding dual enrollment and advanced placement  
17 opportunities identified in this subsection.

18 (20) Draft proposed regulations and legislation based on the  
19 task force's findings.

20 (21) Not later than one (1) year after the effective date of  
21 this section, issue a report of the task force's findings and  
22 recommendations to the Governor, the President pro tempore of  
23 the Senate, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the  
24 Senate, the Education Committee of the Senate, the Speaker of  
25 the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and the  
26 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Education  
27 Committee of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of  
28 Education and the State Board of Education.

29 (22) Consider other issues as it deems appropriate.

30 (k) As used in this section, the following words and phrases

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
2 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
4 Commonwealth.

5 "Dual enrollment." The term dual shall include, but not be  
6 limited to, an arrangement between a school district and a  
7 postsecondary institution that is made pursuant to:

8 (1) A concurrent written agreement established under Article  
9 XVI-B.

10 (2) An agreement made under section 1525.

11 (3) An articulation agreement authorized by the department.

12 (4) Any other type of arrangement that would address the  
13 need to close academic opportunity gaps for obtaining college  
14 credit, whether through direct college course attendance,  
15 successful advanced placement course work offered to the student  
16 while in high school or other programs that provide a student  
17 with the ability to obtain college credits while in high school  
18 and ultimately make college education more affordable in this  
19 Commonwealth.

20 "Task force." The Dual Enrollment Expansion Task Force  
21 established under this section.

22 (1) This section shall expire June 30, 2016.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.