

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 454 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY DUSH, BARTOLOTTA, LAUGHLIN, PENNYCUICK, DILLON, REGAN AND ARGALL, MARCH 14, 2023

SENATOR ARGALL, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, MARCH 19, 2024

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 terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for physical education.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1512.1 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
11 amended to read:

12 ~~Section 1512.1. Physical Education. (a) The board of~~ <--
13 ~~school directors in every school district shall establish a~~
14 ~~curriculum aligned with Pennsylvania academic standards on~~
15 ~~health, safety and physical education that pursuant to 22 Pa.~~
16 ~~Code § 4.27 (relating to physical education and athletics),~~
17 ~~requires pupils enrolled in the district to participate in~~
18 ~~physical education.~~

19 ~~(b) The board of school directors shall permit students to~~
20 ~~satisfy the physical education curriculum requirement under~~

~~1 subsection (a) by participation in an interscholastic sport. A
2 student may utilize participation in an interscholastic sport to
3 satisfy the physical education requirement twice per school
4 year, the utilization of which must be during the
5 interscholastic sport's season.~~

~~6 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
7 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
8 the context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

~~9 "Interscholastic sport" shall mean athletic contests or
10 competitions conducted between or among schools.~~

11 SECTION 1512.1. PHYSICAL EDUCATION.--(A) THE BOARD OF <--
12 SCHOOL DIRECTORS IN EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ESTABLISH A
13 CURRICULUM ALIGNED WITH PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC STANDARDS ON
14 HEALTH, SAFETY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION THAT PURSUANT TO 22 PA.
15 CODE § 4.27 (RELATING TO PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS),
16 REQUIRES PUPILS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PARTICIPATE
17 IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

18 (B) THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

19 (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR AND IN EACH
20 SCHOOL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MAY PERMIT
21 STUDENTS TO SATISFY PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS BY
22 PARTICIPATING IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS.

23 (2) THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS PERMITTING SATISFACTION
24 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) SHALL DEVELOP A POLICY OR REVISE AN EXISTING
25 POLICY TO PERMIT STUDENTS TO SATISFY PHYSICAL EDUCATION
26 REQUIREMENTS BY PARTICIPATING IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS.

27 (C) UTILIZATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS TO SATISFY
28 PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS MAY SATISFY COMPONENTS OF THE
29 ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR HEALTH, SAFETY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
30 UNDER 22 PA. CODE CH. 4 APPEN. D (RELATING TO ACADEMIC STANDARDS

1 FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES AND HEALTH, SAFETY AND PHYSICAL
2 EDUCATION AND FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES) BUT MAY NOT SERVE AS
3 A COMPLETE WAIVER OR EXEMPTION FROM THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND
4 PHYSICAL EDUCATION ACADEMIC STANDARDS.

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

8 "INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS." ATHLETIC CONTESTS OR
9 COMPETITIONS CONDUCTED BETWEEN OR AMONG SCHOOL ENTITIES SITUATED
10 IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT.

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