
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 518 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, PHILLIPS-HILL, SCHWANK AND KEARNEY,
MARCH 14, 2023

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 14, 2023

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 finances, further providing
6 for fiscal year relating to first class school district and
7 for fiscal year relating to second, third and fourth class
8 school districts; and, in collective bargaining, further
9 providing for submission to mediation and for fact-finding
10 panels.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Sections 651, 671(a), 1121-A(a) and 1122-A(a) (1)
14 and (2) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as
15 the Public School Code of 1949, are amended to read:

16 Section 651. Fiscal Year.--In all school districts of the
17 first class and first class A, the fiscal year shall begin on
18 the first day of January in each year: Provided, That the Board
19 of Public Education of any district of the first class or first
20 class A may, by resolution adopted by two-thirds vote of the
21 members thereof at a meeting of the board after not less than
22 ten days' notice of the fact that such resolution would be

1 presented for action at such meeting, fix the fiscal year of
2 such school district so as to begin on the first day of [July]
3 August in each year instead of on the first day of January as
4 hereinabove provided.

5 Section 671. Fiscal Year.--(a) In all school districts of
6 the second, third, and fourth class, the fiscal year shall begin
7 on the first day of [July] August in each year: Provided, That
8 the board of school directors of any district of the second
9 class may, by resolution adopted by two-thirds vote of the
10 members thereof at a meeting of the board after not less than
11 ten days' notice of the fact that such resolution would be
12 presented for action at such meeting, fix the fiscal year of
13 such school district so as to begin on the first day of January
14 in each year instead of on the first day of [July] August as
15 hereinabove provided.

16 * * *

17 Section 1121-A. Submission to Mediation.--(a) If, after a
18 reasonable period of negotiation, a dispute or impasse exists
19 between the representatives of the employer and the employe
20 organization, the parties may voluntarily submit to mediation,
21 but, if no agreement is reached between the parties within
22 forty-five (45) days after negotiations have commenced, but in
23 no event later than one hundred twenty-six (126) days prior to
24 [June 30] July 31 or December 31, whichever is the end of the
25 school entity's fiscal year, and mediation has not been utilized
26 by the parties, both parties shall immediately in writing call
27 on the service of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Mediation.

28 * * *

29 Section 1122-A. Fact-finding Panels.--(a) (1) Once
30 mediation has commenced, it shall continue for so long as the

1 parties have not reached an agreement. If, however, an agreement
2 has not been reached within forty-five (45) days after mediation
3 has commenced or in no event later than eighty-one (81) days
4 prior to [June 30] July 31 or December 31, whichever is the end
5 of the school entity's fiscal year, the Bureau of Mediation
6 shall notify the board of the parties' failure to reach an
7 agreement and of whether either party has requested the
8 appointment of a fact-finding panel.

9 (2) No later than eighty-one (81) days prior to [June 30]
10 July 31 or December 31, whichever is the end of the school
11 entity's fiscal year, either party may request the board to
12 appoint a fact-finding panel. Upon receiving such request, the
13 board shall appoint a fact-finding panel which may consist of
14 either one (1) or three (3) members. The panel so designated or
15 selected shall hold hearings and take oral or written testimony
16 and shall have subpoena power. If, during this time, the parties
17 have not reached an independent agreement, the panel shall make
18 findings of fact and recommendations. The panel shall not find
19 or recommend that the parties accept or adopt an impasse
20 procedure.

21 * * *

22 Section 2. The amendment of sections 651, 671(a), 1121-A(a)
23 and 1122-A(a)(1) and (2) of the act shall apply to the 2024-2025
24 fiscal year of a school district and each fiscal year
25 thereafter.

26 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.