

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 714 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY BLAKE, WARD, SABATINA, GREENLEAF, VULAKOVICH, RESCHENTHALER, SCHWANK, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, RAFFERTY, HAYWOOD, BREWSTER, BOSCOLA AND BROWNE, MAY 12, 2017

SENATOR WARD, LABOR AND INDUSTRY, AS AMENDED, JUNE 18, 2018

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council; and
2 providing for its powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
7 Career Readiness Council Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Charter school." A charter school, regional charter school
13 or cyber charter school established under Article XVII-A of the
14 Public School Code of 1949.

15 "Chief school administrator." The superintendent or chief
16 executive officer of a school district, director of an area
17 vocational-technical school, executive director of an

1 intermediate unit or chief executive officer of a charter
2 school, regional charter school or cyber charter school.

3 "Community college." An institution created under either of
4 the following:

5 (1) Article XIX-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

6 (2) The act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484), known
7 as the Community College Act of 1963.

8 "Council." The Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council
9 established under this act.

10 "High-priority occupation." A job category, within selected
11 industry clusters, that is identified by the Department of Labor
12 and Industry as:

13 (1) being in demand by employers; AND <--

14 (2) ~~having higher skill needs; and~~ <--

15 ~~(3)~~ likely to provide family-sustaining wages.

16 "Independent institution of higher education." The term as
17 defined under section 2001-C of the Public School Code of 1949.

18 "Intermediate Unit." A geographic unit as described under
19 Article IX-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

20 "Labor organization." As follows:

21 (1) The term as defined under section 3(f) of the act of
22 June 1, 1937 (P.L.1168, No.294), known as the Pennsylvania
23 Labor Relations Act.

24 (2) An "employe organization," as defined under section
25 301(3) of the act of July 23, 1970 (P.L.563, No.195), known
26 as the Public Employe Relations Act.

27 "Local workforce investment board." The term as defined
28 under section 103 of the Workforce Development Act.

29 "Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board." The Pennsylvania
30 Workforce Investment Board established under section 301 of the

1 Workforce Development Act.

2 "Public School Code of 1949." The act of March 10, 1949
3 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.

4 "Rural public school district." A public school district
5 that has a population of less than 300 people per square mile.
6 The term also includes an intermediate unit or area vocational-
7 technical school if the composite data for all participating
8 school districts meet the criteria specified under this
9 definition.

10 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
11 vocational-technical school or charter school.

12 "State-related institution." The Pennsylvania State
13 University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University,
14 Lincoln University and their branch campuses.

15 "State System of Higher Education." The State System of
16 Higher Education established under Article XX-A of the Public
17 School Code of 1949.

18 "Suburban public school district." A public school district
19 that has a population of at least 300 people per square mile and
20 not more than 850 people per square mile. The term also includes
21 an intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school if the
22 composite data for all participating school districts meet the
23 criteria specified under this definition.

24 "Urban public school district." A public school district
25 that has a population of more than 850 people per square mile.
26 The term also includes an intermediate unit or area vocational-
27 technical school if the composite data for all participating
28 school districts meet the criteria specified under this
29 definition.

30 "Workforce Development Act." The act of December 18, 2001

1 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act.

2 Section 3. Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council.

3 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Career Readiness
4 Council is established WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND <--
5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

6 (b) Membership.--The Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council
7 shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) One representative of directors of a local workforce
9 development board appointed by the Governor from a list of
10 three qualified director representatives recommended by the
11 Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board.

12 (2) One member of the Pennsylvania Workforce Development
13 Board appointed by the Secretary of Labor and Industry.

14 (3) One representative of presidents of institutions of
15 the State System of Higher Education appointed by the
16 Governor from a list of three qualified president
17 representatives recommended by the Chancellor of the State
18 System of Higher Education.

19 (4) One representative of presidents of community
20 colleges appointed by the Governor from a list of three
21 qualified president representatives recommended by the
22 Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges.

23 (5) One representative of chief school administrators
24 appointed by the Governor from a list of three qualified
25 chief school administrators recommended by the Pennsylvania
26 Association of Intermediate Units.

27 (6) One member of the State Board of Education appointed
28 by the Secretary of Education.

29 (7) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS <--
30 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM A LIST OF THREE QUALIFIED

1 EDUCATORS RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE EDUCATION
2 ASSOCIATION.

3 ~~(7)~~ (8) One representative of ~~chief school~~ <--
4 ~~administrators~~ CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION appointed by <--
5 the Governor from a list of three qualified ~~chief school~~ <--
6 ~~administrators~~ PROFESSIONALS IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL <--
7 EDUCATION recommended by the Pennsylvania Association of
8 Career and Technical Administrators.

9 ~~(8)~~ (9) One representative of directors of economic <--
10 development entities appointed by the Governor from a list of
11 three qualified director representatives recommended by the
12 Pennsylvania Economic Development Association.

13 ~~(9)~~ (10) One representative of presidents of local <--
14 chambers of business and industry appointed by the Governor
15 from a list of three qualified presidents recommended by the
16 Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry.

17 ~~(10)~~ ~~Six~~ (11) FIVE chief executive officers in high- <--
18 growth industries that collectively represent the business
19 diversity of this Commonwealth, accounting for size,
20 geography and industry appointed by the following:

21 (i) ~~Two members~~ ONE MEMBER appointed by the <--
22 Governor, ~~one of whom shall be~~ from a list of three <--
23 qualified chief executive officers recommended in a
24 letter of interest by the staff of the council.

25 (ii) One member appointed by the President pro
26 tempore of the Senate.

27 (iii) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of
28 the Senate.

29 (iv) One member appointed by the Speaker of the
30 House of Representatives.

1 (v) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of
2 the House of Representatives.

3 ~~(11)~~ (12) The Governor, the Secretary of Community and <--
4 Economic Development, the Secretary of Education, the
5 Secretary of Labor and Industry, the President pro tempore of
6 the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of
7 the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the
8 House of Representatives, who shall be ex officio members.

9 (c) Designees.--Governmental members may appoint a designee
10 to attend and vote at meetings of the council. Each governmental
11 member who appoints a designee shall do so by sending a letter
12 to the chairperson stating the name of the designee.

13 (d) Terms.--The following shall apply:

14 (1) The initial terms of members appointed under
15 subsection (b) shall be staggered as follows:

16 (i) Five members shall serve a term of one year.

17 (ii) Five members shall serve a term of two years.

18 (iii) Five members shall serve a term of three
19 years.

20 (2) The subsequent terms of members appointed under
21 subsection (b) shall be three years.

22 (e) Vacancies.--If a vacancy on the council occurs, the
23 appointing authority shall appoint an individual to fill the
24 vacancy in accordance with the criteria under subsection (b).

25 (f) Executive director.--The following shall apply:

26 (1) The Governor shall nominate an individual as
27 executive director to the council. The council shall ratify
28 the nomination for executive director with a vote of a simple
29 majority of the members of the council.

30 (2) The executive director may hire additional staff as

1 necessary and as funding allows.

2 (3) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY SOLICIT FUNDING FOR THE <--
3 OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL AND IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH
4 SUBSECTION (K) (2).

5 (g) Council leadership.--The following shall apply:

6 (1) The Governor shall serve as the chairperson of the
7 council.

8 (2) The Governor shall select an appointed business
9 chief executive to serve as vice-chairperson of the council
10 in accordance with subsection (b).

11 (h) Meetings.--The following shall apply:

12 (1) The council shall meet at the call of the
13 chairperson, but no less than four times a year.

14 (2) The chairperson, in consultation with the vice-
15 chairperson, shall establish the agenda for each meeting of
16 the council.

17 (i) Quorum and official action.--The following shall apply:

18 (1) A majority of voting members of the council shall
19 constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

20 (2) The affirmative votes of a majority of voting
21 members of the council are necessary for the council to take
22 official action.

23 (j) Reimbursement.--The members of the council may not
24 receive a salary or per diem allowance for serving as members of
25 the council, but shall be reimbursed for the actual and
26 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the members'
27 duties.

28 ~~(k) Funding. The council may accept appropriations from the <--~~

29 (K) FUNDING.-- <--

30 (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2), THE COUNCIL MAY RECEIVE

1 APPROPRIATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM THE General
2 Assembly, grants from the Federal Government, grants from the
3 Commonwealth, money from private entities or any combination
4 thereof.

5 (2) THE COUNCIL SHALL, NOT LATER THAN THE THIRD FISCAL <--
6 YEAR THAT COMMENCES AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION,
7 OPERATE ONLY WITH FUNDING FROM SOURCES ENUMERATED IN
8 PARAGRAPH (1), EXCLUDING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND
9 TO THE COUNCIL OR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
10 DEVELOPMENT.

11 (1) Conflict of interest.--A member of the council may not
12 vote on a matter under consideration by the council:

13 (1) regarding the provision of services by the member or
14 by an entity that the member represents; or

15 (2) which would provide direct financial benefit to the
16 member or the immediate family of the member.

17 Section 4. Duties of the council.

18 (a) Duties.--The council shall:

19 (1) Within 180 days of the effective date of this
20 section, develop a vision and mission statement that makes
21 clear the council's purpose as well as the respective roles
22 and responsibilities of council members.

23 (2) Within one year of the effective date of this
24 section, develop a plan in consultation with the Pennsylvania
25 Workforce Investment Board to improve this Commonwealth's
26 career readiness preparation system. The plan developed under
27 this paragraph shall include, but not be limited to:

28 (i) Proposed changes to:

29 (A) improve the transition from K-12 education
30 and postsecondary education to the work force; and

1 (B) ensure that programs are aligned with
2 current or anticipated business and industry needs.

3 (ii) Proposed changes, including recommended
4 legislation and rules, to increase coordination, data
5 sharing and communication among State, local and private
6 agencies, groups and associations that are involved in
7 education, job skills development and career training.

8 (iii) Proposed changes to make this Commonwealth a
9 leader in employment opportunities related to the fields
10 of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

11 (3) Identify appropriate information and request
12 appropriate data disaggregated by subgroups from council
13 members in order to make recommendations for system
14 improvement and set goals regarding, at minimum, the
15 following areas:

16 (i) Availability of and access to high-quality
17 career pathways in ~~high-skill~~, high-demand industry <--
18 occupations spanning secondary and postsecondary
19 education.

20 (ii) Availability of and access to high-quality
21 work-based learning and preapprenticeship/apprenticeship
22 opportunities.

23 (iii) Availability of and access to postsecondary
24 credit and industry-recognized credentials in ~~high-skill~~, <--
25 high-demand occupations, especially those related to the
26 fields of science, technology, engineering and
27 mathematics.

28 (4) Develop a sustainable process for identifying and
29 addressing equity gaps in the career preparation delivery
30 system.

1 (5) Develop a sustainable process for identifying
2 opportunities to align this Commonwealth's education and
3 training pipeline in response to labor market needs,
4 including, but not limited to:

5 (i) Cataloging all funding sources, including
6 Federal, State and private, that can be utilized for
7 education, career training and work force preparation.

8 (ii) Reviewing funding streams for overlaps and gaps
9 with a special focus on identifying areas with
10 inequitable student access.

11 (iii) Developing and implementing plans to improve
12 alignment and more effectively prepare all secondary
13 students for postsecondary success in ~~high-skill~~, high- <--
14 demand occupations.

15 (iv) Identifying strategies for leveraging and
16 aligning Federal, State and private funding sources.

17 (6) Create a public repository that includes, but is not
18 limited to, national and state model partnerships between
19 industry and education, career pathway programs in this
20 Commonwealth and other national and state best practices in
21 career readiness preparation.

22 (7) Coordinate Statewide and regional conventions to:

23 (i) highlight national and state best practices;

24 (ii) connect the work within this Commonwealth; and

25 (iii) benchmark the work toward national standards.

26 (8) Develop and maintain a marketing, communications and
27 stakeholder engagement strategy, with a website and other
28 public materials, to be maintained by the executive director
29 and council staff.

30 (9) Obtain input from the following:

1 (i) Employers and employer organizations located in
2 this Commonwealth.

3 (ii) State System of Higher Education institutions,
4 State-related institutions, community colleges and
5 independent institutions of higher education.

6 (iii) Regional and local economic development
7 organizations.

8 (iv) Labor organizations located in this
9 Commonwealth.

10 (v) Individuals with expertise in career readiness
11 preparation activities.

12 (vi) Local workforce investment boards.

13 (vii) School entities.

14 (viii) Military and veterans organizations.

15 (ix) Organizations representing women, African
16 Americans, Latinos and other significant minority
17 populations, and having an interest in issues of
18 particular concern to these populations.

19 (x) Any other individual or organization that a
20 majority of the voting members of the council determines
21 has information that is important for the council to
22 consider.

23 (b) Report.--The council shall submit an annual report to
24 the General Assembly, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief
25 Clerk of the House of Representatives that details the progress
26 made by the council according to the plan referenced under
27 subsection (a)(2), with accompanying recommendations for further
28 action to be taken.

29 SECTION 5. NOTICE IN PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN.

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30 IN THE EVENT THAT THE COUNCIL LACKS SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO

1 COMPLY WITH SECTION 3(K) (2), THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL
2 TRANSMIT NOTICE THEREOF TO THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FOR
3 PUBLICATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN.

4 SECTION 6. EXPIRATION.

5 THIS ACT SHALL EXPIRE UPON PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE IN
6 SECTION 5.

7 Section ~~5~~ 7. Effective date.

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8 This act shall take effect in 60 days.