

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**SENATE BILL**No. **847** Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, SMUCKER, DINNIMAN, MENSCH AND  
EICHELBERGER, APRIL 11, 2013

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SENATOR FOLMER, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 16, 2013

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## 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 providing for guidelines on religious expression.

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 1516.2. Guidelines on Religious Expression.--(a)  
13 Beginning with school year 2013-2014, the Secretary of Education  
14 shall post on the Department of Education's publicly accessible  
15 Internet website for informational purposes the entire "Guidance  
16 on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and  
17 Secondary Schools" published by the United States Department of  
18 Education, as updated from time to time.

19 (b) In addition to the information required under subsection  
20 (a), the Secretary of Education may include on the Department of

1 Education's publicly accessible Internet website any additional  
2 information it deems relevant to religious activity in public  
3 schools, including applicable Federal and State laws.

4 (c) ~~The Secretary of Education shall direct school districts~~ <--  
5 ~~to~~ SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY post the guidelines under subsection (a) <--  
6 and any other relevant information posted by the department  
7 under subsection (b) on the school districts' publicly  
8 accessible Internet websites for informational purposes for  
9 school board members, district school superintendents, school  
10 principals, teachers and the general public.

11 (d) School districts ~~shall~~ MAY annually, through normal <--  
12 communications, inform public school employees and parents or  
13 guardians of students of the information posted under this  
14 section and how they may access it on the school districts'  
15 publicly accessible Internet website.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.