

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE BILL

## No. 1293

Session of  
1983

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INTRODUCED BY TRELLO, FREIND, PITTS, SEVENTY, CLYMER, KOSINSKI,  
MORRIS, BOYES, MERRY, JOHNSON, SERAFINI, CIMINI, WASS,  
ALDERETTE, STAIRS, PHILLIPS, HERSHEY, VROON, NOYE, CAWLEY,  
O'BRIEN, GAMBLE, MRKONIC, POTT, MAIALE, WOGAN, SIRIANNI,  
PERZEL, ARMSTRONG, A. C. FOSTER, JR., FLICK, GRIECO,  
DOMBROWSKI AND E. Z. TAYLOR, JUNE 29, 1983

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AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, FEBRUARY 6, 1984

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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," further providing requirements for  
6 attendance at religious schools; and making editorial  
7 changes.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1327 of the act of March 10, 1949  
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
12 amended January 14, 1970 (1969 P.L.468, No.192), is amended to  
13 read:

14 Section 1327. Compulsory School Attendance.--[Every] Except  
15 as hereinafter provided, every child of compulsory school age  
16 having a legal residence in this Commonwealth, as provided in  
17 this article, and every migratory child of compulsory school  
18 age, is required to attend a day school in which the subjects

1 and activities prescribed by the standards of the State Board of  
2 Education are taught in the English language. In lieu of such  
3 school attendance, any child fifteen years of age with the  
4 approval of the district superintendent and the approval of the  
5 [Superintendent of Public Instruction] Secretary of Education,  
6 and any child sixteen years of age with the approval of the  
7 district superintendent of schools, may enroll as a day student  
8 in a private trade school or in a private business school  
9 licensed by the Department of [Public Instruction] Education, or  
10 in a trade or business school, or department operated by a local  
11 school district or districts. Such modified program offered in a  
12 public school must meet the standards prescribed by the State  
13 Board of Education or the State Board for Vocational Education.  
14 [Every] Except as hereinafter provided, every parent, guardian,  
15 or other person having control or charge of any child or  
16 children of compulsory school age is required to send such child  
17 or children to a day school in which the subjects and activities  
18 prescribed by the standards of the State Board of Education are  
19 taught in the English language. Such parent, guardian, or other  
20 person having control or charge of any child or children,  
21 fifteen or sixteen years of age, in accordance with the  
22 provisions of this act, may send such child or children to a  
23 private trade school or private business school licensed by the  
24 Department of [Public Instruction] Education, or to a trade or  
25 business school, or department operated by a local school  
26 district or districts. Such modified program offered in a public  
27 school must meet the standards prescribed by the State Board of  
28 Education or the State Board for Vocational Education. Such  
29 child or children shall attend such school continuously through  
30 the entire term, during which the public schools in their

1    respective districts shall be in session, or in cases of  
2    children of migrant laborers during the time the schools are in  
3    session in the districts in which such children are temporarily  
4    domiciled. The financial responsibility for the education of  
5    such children of migrant laborers shall remain with the school  
6    district in which such children of migrant laborers are  
7    temporarily domiciled; except in the case of special schools or  
8    classes conducted by an intermediate unit and approved by the  
9    Department of [Public Instruction] Education or conducted by the  
10   Department of [Public Instruction] Education. A child enrolled  
11 in a school which is operated by a bona fide church or other  
12 religious body, and the parent, guardian or other person having  
13 control or charge of any such child or children of compulsory  
14 school age shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this  
15 section if that school provides a minimum of one hundred eighty  
16 (180) days of instruction or nine hundred (900) hours of  
17 instruction per year at the elementary level, or nine hundred  
18 ninety (990) hours per year of instruction at the secondary  
19 level and offers the following subjects:

20        (1) At the elementary school level: English, to include  
21 spelling, reading and writing; arithmetic; science; geography;  
22 history of the United States and Pennsylvania; civics; safety  
23 education, including regular and continuous instruction in the  
24 dangers of AND prevention of fires; health and physiology; <—  
25 physical education; music and art.

26        (2) At the secondary school level: English, to include  
27 language, literature, speech and composition; science, to  
28 include biology and chemistry; geography; social studies, to  
29 include civics, economics, world history, United States history  
30 and Pennsylvania history; a foreign language; mathematics, to

1 include general mathematics and statistics, algebra and  
2 geometry; art; music; physical education; health and physiology;  
3 and safety education, including regular and continuous  
4 instruction in the dangers and prevention of fires. The  
5 requirements contained in section 1511 and 1605 of this act  
6 shall not apply to such schools. The notarized statement of the  
7 principal of any such school, filed with the Department of  
8 Education and setting forth that such subjects are offered in  
9 the English language in such school, whether it is a nonprofit  
10 organization, and that such school is otherwise in compliance  
11 with the provisions of this act, shall be satisfactory and  
12 sufficient evidence thereof. The certificate of any principal or  
13 teacher of [a] any other private school, or of any other  
14 institution for the education of children, in which the subjects  
15 and activities prescribed by the standards of the State Board of  
16 Education are taught in the English language, setting forth that  
17 the work of said school is in compliance with the provisions of  
18 this act, shall be sufficient and satisfactory evidence thereof.  
19 Regular daily instruction in the English language, for the time  
20 herein required, by a properly qualified private tutor, shall be  
21 considered as complying with the provisions of this section, if  
22 such instruction is satisfactory to the proper district  
23 superintendent of schools. It is the policy of the Commonwealth  
24 to preserve the primary right and the obligation of the parent  
25 or parents, or person or persons in loco parentis to a child, to  
26 choose the education and training for such child. Nothing  
27 contained in this act shall empower the Commonwealth, any of its  
28 officers, agencies or subdivisions to approve the course  
29 content, faculty, staff or disciplinary requirements of any  
30 ~~private or~~ religious school referred to in this section without

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1 the consent of said school.

2 (3) THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM COURSES IN GRADES NINE THROUGH 12 <—

3 ARE ESTABLISHED AS A REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION:

4 (I) FOUR YEARS OF ENGLISH.

5 (II) THREE YEARS OF MATHEMATICS.

6 (III) THREE YEARS OF SCIENCE.

7 (IV) THREE YEARS OF SOCIAL STUDIES.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.