

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 20

Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY STAIRS, BAKER, SAYLOR, TRUE, HERMAN, KING, BROWN,
FARGO, COLAIZZO, KREBS, ARMSTRONG, LYNCH, PLATTS, HERSHEY,
FLEAGLE, EGOLF, COWELL, SCHULER, RUDY, RAYMOND, MILLER, HESS,
HALUSKA, STERN, B. SMITH, GEIST, COY, TULLI, STEELMAN, MERRY,
MARSICO, LLOYD, CIVERA, YOUNGBLOOD, GORDNER, LEH AND
MAITLAND, JANUARY 19, 1995

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 8, 1995

AN ACT

1 Providing for agricultural education programs; imposing duties
2 on the Department of Education; and creating the Advisory
3 Council on Agricultural Education.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Agricultural
8 Education Act.

9 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

10 The General Assembly declares it is the purpose of this act
11 to:

12 (1) Require the Department of Education to develop and
13 ~~implement~~ DISSEMINATE agricultural education programs <—
14 MATERIALS for the educational systems of this Commonwealth, <—
15 ~~which programs shall be available to the general student~~
16 ~~population. The programs.~~ THE MATERIALS shall incorporate <—

1 agricultural concepts into the basic school curricula and
2 shall be designed to educate the general student population
3 about the importance of the agriculture industry and the role
4 of agriculture in the students' lives. Agricultural education <—
5 ~~programs may include instruction on issues related to~~
6 ~~agriculture, including, but not limited to, food safety,~~
7 ~~pesticides, farmland preservation, waste management,~~
8 ~~wetlands, nutrient management, food production and food~~
9 ~~processing, animal health, and statutory and regulatory~~
10 ~~protections of the right to farm.~~

11 (2) Encourage the agricultural education efforts of
12 other agencies where appropriate, including, but not limited
13 to, those of the county conservation districts, the
14 Cooperative Extension Service of the Pennsylvania State
15 University, the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School,
16 the Department of Agriculture, the Department of
17 Environmental Resources, the Department of Community Affairs, <—
18 THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION and the Department of
19 Transportation.

20 (3) Create and establish the Advisory Council on
21 Agricultural Education within the Department of Education.

22 Section 3. Definitions.

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

26 "Council." The Advisory Council on Agricultural Education
27 established under this act.

28 "Department." The Department of Education of the
29 Commonwealth.

30 "FARMER." ANY PERSON WHO ENGAGES IN THE ACCEPTED ACTIVITIES, <—

1 PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES YEAR AFTER YEAR TO PRODUCE AND PREPARE
2 FOR MARKET POULTRY, LIVESTOCK AND THEIR PRODUCTS OR IN THE
3 PRODUCTION AND HARVESTING OF AGRICULTURAL, AGRONOMIC,
4 HORTICULTURAL, SILVICULTURAL AND AQUACULTURAL CROPS AND
5 COMMODITIES AND WHOSE OPERATION IS CONDUCTED ON NOT LESS THAN
6 TEN CONTIGUOUS ACRES IN AREA OR, IF LESS THAN TEN CONTIGUOUS
7 ACRES IN AREA, HAS AN ANTICIPATED YEARLY GROSS INCOME OF AT
8 LEAST \$10,000.

9 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

10 Section 4. Powers and duties of department.

11 The department shall have the power and its duty shall be to:

12 (1) Provide assistance, support and resource information
13 to educators and public and private education agencies and
14 organizations on agricultural education ~~programs~~. <—

15 (2) PROVIDE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS <—
16 MATERIALS ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION. SUCH MATERIALS MAY
17 INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON ISSUES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE,
18 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FOOD SAFETY, PESTICIDES,
19 FARMLAND PRESERVATION, WASTE MANAGEMENT, WETLANDS, NUTRIENT
20 MANAGEMENT, FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD PROCESSING, ANIMAL
21 HEALTH AND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS OF THE RIGHT
22 TO FARM.

23 ~~(2)~~ (3) Identify, recognize and establish awards for <—
24 exemplary agricultural education curricula developed in
25 Commonwealth schools.

26 ~~(3)~~ (4) Use the department's council and local school <—
27 district occupational advisory committees to serve as the
28 conduit to bring youth and adult education programs into
29 communities and schools, focusing on agricultural industry
30 issues of importance to this Commonwealth.

1 Section 5. Agricultural education report.

2 The secretary shall prepare and submit an annual report to
3 the Governor and the General Assembly outlining agricultural
4 education programs and achievements, highlighting new
5 initiatives and recommending future program needs.

6 Section 6. Advisory Council on Agricultural Education.

7 (a) Duties.--There is hereby created the Advisory Council on
8 Agricultural Education within the Department of Education. The
9 council shall:

10 (1) Advise and assist the secretary in conducting a
11 continual assessment of the trends and needs in agricultural
12 education.

13 (2) Advise and assist the secretary in carrying out
14 agricultural education activities.

15 (3) Make recommendations to the secretary with respect
16 to the use of any funds used to support agricultural
17 education activities.

18 (4) Make recommendations to the secretary to help foster
19 agricultural education programs.

20 (b) Composition.--The council shall consist of 13 members,
21 as follows:

22 (1) The secretary, who shall serve as chairperson.

23 (2) The Secretary of Agriculture.

24 (3) Eleven members to be appointed by the secretary as
25 follows:

26 (i) Three Commonwealth residents representing the
27 food processing industry.

28 (ii) Three Commonwealth residents who are active in

29 ~~commercial~~ THE agricultural production industry, AT LEAST <—
30 ONE OF WHICH SHALL BE A FARMER.

1 (iii) Three Commonwealth residents representing the
2 ~~commercial~~ agricultural marketing industry. <—

3 (iv) One representative of an agricultural college
4 from a State-related university.

5 (v) One member who is a vocational agriculture
6 teacher. In appointing this member, the secretary shall
7 consider nominees recommended by the Pennsylvania
8 Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association.

9 In appointing members representing the food processing,
10 commercial agricultural production and commercial
11 agricultural marketing industries, the secretary shall
12 consider nominees from listings prepared and submitted by the
13 Pennsylvania Council of Farm Organizations, THE AGRICULTURE <—
14 AWARENESS FOUNDATION and the public at large.

15 (c) Appointments, terms and expenses.--The terms of office
16 for each of the 11 appointed council members shall be three
17 years. However, the initial appointment of members representing
18 the food processing, ~~commercial~~ agricultural production and <—
19 ~~commercial~~ agricultural marketing industries shall be as <—
20 follows:

21 (1) One member representing each industry shall be
22 appointed for a term of one year.

23 (2) One member representing each industry shall be
24 appointed for a term of two years.

25 (3) One member representing each industry shall be
26 appointed for a term of three years.

27 A member may be appointed for more than one term and shall serve
28 until a successor has been appointed. Members shall not be
29 compensated but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses in
30 accordance with the rules of the executive board.

1 (d) Offices and bylaws.--The council shall convene at least
2 annually, shall elect a vice chairperson to serve a one-year
3 term and shall adopt bylaws for governing its operations.

4 (e) Staff.--The secretary shall designate staff as may be
5 necessary for the operation of the council.

6 Section 7. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect in 60 days.