

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL  
No. 2701 Session of  
1996

INTRODUCED BY GODSHALL, E. Z. TAYLOR, MERRY, WALKO, HENNESSEY,  
STEELMAN, TRELLO, YOUNGBLOOD, DeLUCA, MELIO, MICOZZIE,  
STABACK, TRAVAGLIO, BOSCOLA, PETRARCA, BELARDI AND READSHAW,  
JUNE 12, 1996

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 12, 1996

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," providing for assemblies on child  
6 abuse prevention.

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 1550. Child Abuse Prevention Assemblies.--(a)  
13 Beginning with the 1996-1997 school year and each year  
14 thereafter, each public school shall hold at least one school  
15 assembly on child abuse prevention. Each assembly presentation  
16 shall be age designed so that the information made available  
17 could be easily understood by the population to which the  
18 presentation would be made.

19 (b) Prior notification shall be made to parents/guardians of

1 children who would participate in such assemblies, in order to  
2 ensure that those who would like specific information on the  
3 content of the assemblies could request and receive it. In  
4 addition, parents and guardians shall have the option of  
5 choosing to not have their child participate in the child abuse  
6 prevention assembly. Parents/guardians choosing to not have  
7 their child participate shall provide written notification to  
8 the building principal, who shall provide for alternative  
9 arrangements for those children not participating in the  
10 assemblies.

11 (c) School districts may utilize any appropriate public or  
12 private materials, personnel and other resources in developing  
13 and implementing the presentation of child abuse prevention  
14 assemblies. In addition, school districts shall work  
15 cooperatively with parent-teacher organizations in the planning  
16 of assemblies on child abuse prevention, including the selection  
17 of materials to be presented. The Department of Health,  
18 Department of Education and Department of Public Welfare shall  
19 make available, upon request, information about appropriate  
20 child abuse prevention assembly materials.

21 (d) Child abuse prevention assembly presentations shall  
22 include, but not be limited to: information and instruction on  
23 the right of bodily privacy, the dangers presented by abusers  
24 and abductors and the techniques of avoiding victimization.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.