

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 843 Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY MAYERNIK, HERSHEY, BROWNE AND FAIRCHILD,
MARCH 12, 1997

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 12, 1997

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," setting forth public policy relating
6 to strikes, including financial adjustments.

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 1134. Public Policy Relating to Strikes;
13 Assessments.--(a) The Constitution of Pennsylvania requires the
14 General Assembly to provide for a thorough and efficient system
15 of public education. Existing law requires one hundred eighty
16 (180) days of instruction each year as established by the school
17 calendar. The scheduled one hundred eighty (180) days of
18 instruction are lost or rescheduled when a strike occurs. Days
19 lost or rescheduled are made up as much as possible by canceling

scheduled vacation days and holidays and extending the school year resulting in severe disruption of the educational process and family life. Guarantees for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare are not kept inviolate when instructional days are lost or rescheduled. Therefore, it is the intent of the General Assembly that equal financial assessments be imposed on those responsible for strike disruptions.

(b) Whenever an instructional day, in accordance with the officially adopted original calendar of instructional days approved by the board of directors, is lost or rescheduled as the result of a strike, each employee who participates in the strike shall be assessed a sum equal to one one-hundred-eightieth (1/180) of that year's annual salary or wages for each day of the strike. The school district shall be assessed by the Commonwealth a sum equal to the total daily wages or salaries of the striking employees from its Equalized Subsidy for Basic Education (ESBE) payments calculated under Article XXV of this act. In the case of an intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school, the respective agency shall be assessed a sum equal to the total daily wages or salaries of the striking employees. The constituent districts of the respective agency shall have a sum proportionate to the district's percentage of enrollment deducted from the Equalized Subsidy for Basic Education (ESBE) as provided for in Article XXV of this act. The assessment paid by the employer shall not exceed the total amount of annual subsidies due. The school district shall deduct, in equal installments over the remaining pay periods, the amount of the assessment it determines to be due under this section from the compensation payable to the assessed employee. Assessments required under this section shall not be waived,

1 suspended or reduced after the signing of a collective
2 bargaining agreement or as a condition for the agreement. The
3 scheduling of days to make up instructional days lost because of
4 a strike shall not constitute a basis for a rescission of or a
5 set-off for an assessment owed by or deducted from the school
6 district or for the payment of compensation to a striking
7 employee under this section. Assessments due under this section
8 shall be paid in the school year in which the strike occurs.

9 (c) As used in this section, the term "strike" shall mean a
10 concerted action in failing to report for duty, the wilful
11 absence from one's position, the stoppage of work, slowdown or
12 the abstinence in whole or in part from the full, faithful and
13 proper performance of the duties of employment for the purpose
14 of inducing, influencing or coercing a change in the conditions
15 or compensation or the rights, privileges or obligations of
16 employment.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 1998.