

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1844 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY B. BOYLE, BISHOP, ROZZI, THOMAS, K. BOYLE,  
CALTAGIRONE, V. BROWN, COHEN, KOTIK, PARKER, O'BRIEN,  
BROWNLEE, MAHONEY, ROEBUCK, DEASY, MURT AND PASHINSKI,  
NOVEMBER 18, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 18, 2013

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 school health services, further  
6 providing for definitions; and providing for school  
7 counseling services and grant program.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1401 of the act of March 10, 1949  
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
12 amended by adding a clause to read:

13 Section 1401. Definitions.--As used in this article--

14 \* \* \*

15 (13) "School counselor" means a person who holds a valid  
16 elementary and secondary school counselor certificate issued by  
17 the Department of Education and is employed by a school district  
18 or joint school board as a school counselor to provide  
19 counseling services, including, but not limited to, family and

1 academic problems, career planning, course schedules and problem  
2 solving around course selection and scheduling, conducting  
3 groups regarding family changes, social skills and other related  
4 issues, chemical dependency prevention and early intervention  
5 activities, crisis intervention and mental health counseling.

6 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

7 Section 1402.1. School Counseling Services and Grant  
8 Program.--(a) Beginning two (2) years after the effective date  
9 of this section, every child of school age shall be provided  
10 with school counseling services by a school counselor. The  
11 number of pupils under the care of each school counselor shall  
12 not exceed three hundred seventy-five (375) for kindergarten  
13 through the eighth grade and three hundred twenty-five (325) for  
14 the ninth through twelfth grades.

15 (b) The Department of Education shall establish and  
16 administer a program to award grants to school districts for  
17 hiring and maintaining school counselors in compliance with  
18 subsection (a). The grants shall be awarded by giving priority  
19 to school districts with the highest student-to-counselor  
20 ratios. The grants shall be funded by appropriations and moneys  
21 made available to the Department of Education. The Department of  
22 Education shall promulgate regulations to implement this  
23 subsection.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.