

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2037 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

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 pupils and attendance, further
6 providing for definitions and for exceptions to compulsory
7 attendance.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1326 of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended to read:

13 Section 1326. Definitions.--The term "Commonwealth secondary
14 school diploma," as used in this article, shall mean a secondary
15 school diploma issued by the Department of Education to an
16 applicant who is a resident of this Commonwealth, does not
17 possess a secondary school diploma and satisfies one of the
18 following:

19 (1) Presents evidence of full matriculation and the
20 satisfactory completion of a minimum of one (1) full year or
21 thirty (30) semester hours of study at an accredited institution

1 of postsecondary education.

2 (2) Earns a passing score as determined by the Department of
3 Education on the high school level tests of general educational
4 development while not enrolled in a public, licensed private,
5 registered accredited or licensed nonpublic secondary school. A
6 person eighteen (18) years of age or older may qualify for
7 general educational development testing upon request. A person
8 between sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) years of age may qualify
9 for general educational development testing upon the issuance of
10 a court order or at the written request of one of the following:

11 (i) An employer who requires a high school equivalency
12 credential for job opportunities.

13 (ii) An official of an accredited institution of
14 postsecondary education which accepts applicants on the basis of
15 general educational development test scores.

16 (iii) A recruiting officer of a branch of the armed forces
17 that requires a high school equivalency credential for entry of
18 new recruits.

19 (iv) The director of a State institution on behalf of
20 residents, patients or inmates.

21 The term "compulsory school age," as hereinafter used, shall
22 mean the period of a child's life from the time the child's
23 parents elect to have the child enter school, which shall be not
24 later than at the age of eight (8) years, until the age of
25 [seventeen (17)] eighteen (18) years. The term shall not include
26 any child who holds a certificate of graduation from a regularly
27 accredited senior high school.

28 The term "migratory child," wherever used in this subdivision
29 of this article, shall include any child domiciled temporarily
30 in any school district for the purpose of seasonal employment,

1 but not acquiring residence therein, and any child accompanying
2 his parent or guardian who is so domiciled.

3 Section 2. Section 1330(1) of the act is amended to read:

4 Section 1330. Exceptions to Compulsory Attendance.--The
5 provisions of this act requiring regular attendance shall not
6 apply to any child who--

7 (1) Has attained the age of sixteen (16) years, and who is
8 regularly engaged in any useful and lawful employment or service
9 during the time the public schools are in session, and who holds
10 an employment certificate issued according to law, and, in the
11 case of a child who withdraws from school, who is actively
12 pursuing a Commonwealth secondary school diploma in accordance
13 with regulations which shall be promulgated by the State Board
14 of Education;

15 * * *

16 Section 3. The regulations required by section 1330(1) of
17 the act shall be promulgated within 18 months of the effective
18 date of this section.

19 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.