

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 202 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY TURZAI, TOBASH, SAYLOR, CUTLER, TOEPEL, MASSER, WHEELAND, WARD, BOBACK, CAUSER, KAUFFMAN, BAKER, SCHLOSSBERG, MACKENZIE, JAMES, SACCONI, HICKERNELL, GREINER, BLOOM, QUIGLEY, ENGLISH, PICKETT, M. K. KELLER, FEE, MULLERY, MILLARD, TOPPER, GODSHALL, MARSHALL, GOODMAN, NEILSON, STAATS, PHILLIPS-HILL, READSHAW, GROVE, DAVIS, RAPP, D. COSTA, WARNER, ORTITAY, ROTHMAN, IRVIN, RYAN, ROEBUCK, HEFFLEY, LAWRENCE, B. MILLER, SIMMONS, CORBIN, SCHEMEL, CHARLTON, KAUFER, DUSH, LEWIS, SANKEY, LONGIETTI, STEPHENS, FRANKEL, HELM, MALONEY, GABLER, KEEFER, EVERETT, M. QUINN, CARROLL, MCGINNIS, NELSON, FARRY, KAMPF, HAHN, HARKINS, DIAMOND, TOOHL, DeLUCA, DUNBAR, JOZWIAK, PYLE, R. BROWN, F. KELLER, FREEMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER AND GILLEN, JANUARY 24, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 24, 2017

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 preliminary provisions, further  
 6 providing for Keystone Exams.

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

9 Section 1. Section 121(a) of the act of March 10, 1949  
 10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
 11 amended February 3, 2016 (P.L.1, No.1), is amended and the  
 12 section is amended by adding subsections to read:

13 Section 121. Keystone Exams.--(a) [Subject to annual  
 14 appropriation, not later than the 2020-2021 school year, the]

1 The Department of Education shall develop and implement Keystone  
2 Exams in [the following subjects:] algebra I, literature[,  
3 biology, English composition, algebra II, geometry, United  
4 States history, chemistry, civics and government and world  
5 history.] and biology. The State Board of Education shall  
6 promulgate regulations, subject to the act of June 25, 1982  
7 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act,"  
8 necessary to implement this section.

9 \* \* \*

10 (c) Notwithstanding section 2604-B(b)(2)(v), 22 Pa. Code §  
11 4.24 (relating to high school graduation requirements) or 4.51  
12 (relating to State assessment system) or any statute or  
13 regulation to the contrary, in any school year in which a  
14 demonstration of proficiency on a Keystone Exam is required for  
15 high school graduation, a CTE Concentrator shall be deemed  
16 proficient provided that the CTE Concentrator shall meet all of  
17 the following requirements:

18 (1) completes locally established grade-based requirements  
19 for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on  
20 which the CTE Concentrator did not achieve proficiency. For the  
21 purposes of this paragraph, completion of grade-based  
22 requirements in any science and technology and environment and  
23 ecology course shall satisfy the requirements for the academic  
24 content area associated with the Keystone Exam in biology; and

25 (2) completes one of the following:

26 (i) attains an industry-based competency certification  
27 related to the CTE Concentrator's program of study; or

28 (ii) demonstrates a high likelihood of success on an  
29 approved industry-based competency assessment or readiness for  
30 continued meaningful engagement in the CTE Concentrator's

1 program of study as demonstrated by performance on benchmark  
2 assessments, course grades and other factors consistent with the  
3 CTE Concentrator's goals and career plan.

4 (d) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
6 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Approved industry-based competency assessment." A NOCTI  
8 exam, NIMS assessment or other industry-based competency  
9 assessment identified by the Secretary of Education and approved  
10 by the State Board of Education.

11 "CTE Concentrator." A student who, by the end of a reporting  
12 year, will be reported as successfully completing at least fifty  
13 percent (50%) of the minimum technical instructional hours  
14 required under 22 Pa. Code Ch. 339 (relating to vocational  
15 education).

16 "NIMS assessment." An assessment based on the National  
17 Institute for Metalworking Skills standards.

18 "NOCTI exam." A National Occupational Competency Testing  
19 Institute exam.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.