
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 714 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BLAKE, WARD, SABATINA, GREENLEAF, VULAKOVICH,
RESCHENTHALER, SCHWANK, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA,
RAFFERTY, HAYWOOD, BREWSTER, BOSCOLA AND BROWNE, MAY 12, 2017

REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MAY 12, 2017

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council; and
2 providing for its powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
7 Career Readiness Council Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Charter School." A charter school, regional charter school
13 or cyber charter school established under Article XVII-A of the
14 Public School Code of 1949.

15 "Chief school administrator." The superintendent or chief
16 executive officer of a school district, director of an area
17 vocational-technical school, executive director of an

1 intermediate unit or chief executive officer of a charter
2 school, regional charter school or cyber charter school.

3 "Community college." An institution created under either of
4 the following:

5 (1) Article XIX-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

6 (2) The act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484), known
7 as the Community College Act of 1963.

8 "Council." The Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council
9 established under this act.

10 "High-priority occupation." A job category, within selected
11 industry clusters, that is identified by the Department of Labor
12 and Industry as:

13 (1) being in demand by employers;

14 (2) having higher skill needs; and

15 (3) likely to provide family-sustaining wages.

16 "Independent institution of higher education." The term as
17 defined under section 2001-C of the Public School Code of 1949.

18 "Intermediate Unit." A geographic unit as described under
19 Article IX-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

20 "Labor organization." As follows:

21 (1) The term as defined under section 3(f) of the act of
22 June 1, 1937 (P.L.1168, No.294), known as the Pennsylvania
23 Labor Relations Act.

24 (2) An "employe organization," as defined under section
25 301(3) of the act of July 23, 1970 (P.L.563, No.195), known
26 as the Public Employe Relations Act.

27 "Local workforce investment board." The term as defined
28 under section 103 of the Workforce Development Act.

29 "Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board." The Pennsylvania
30 Workforce Investment Board established under section 301 of the

1 Workforce Development Act.

2 "Public School Code of 1949." The act of March 10, 1949
3 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.

4 "Rural public school district." A public school district
5 that has a population of less than 300 people per square mile.
6 The term also includes an intermediate unit or area vocational-
7 technical school if the composite data for all participating
8 school districts meet the criteria specified under this
9 definition.

10 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
11 vocational-technical school or charter school.

12 "State-related institution." The Pennsylvania State
13 University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University,
14 Lincoln University and their branch campuses.

15 "State System of Higher Education." The State System of
16 Higher Education established under Article XX-A of the Public
17 School Code of 1949.

18 "Suburban public school district." A public school district
19 that has a population of at least 300 people per square mile and
20 not more than 850 people per square mile. The term also includes
21 an intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school if the
22 composite data for all participating school districts meet the
23 criteria specified under this definition.

24 "Urban public school district." A public school district
25 that has a population of more than 850 people per square mile.
26 The term also includes an intermediate unit or area vocational-
27 technical school if the composite data for all participating
28 school districts meet the criteria specified under this
29 definition.

30 "Workforce Development Act." The act of December 18, 2001

1 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act.

2 Section 3. Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council.

3 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Career Readiness
4 Council is established.

5 (b) Membership.--The Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council
6 shall consist of the following members:

7 (1) One representative of directors of a local workforce
8 development board appointed by the Governor from a list of
9 three qualified director representatives recommended by the
10 Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board.

11 (2) One member of the Pennsylvania Workforce Development
12 Board appointed by the Secretary of Labor and Industry.

13 (3) One representative of presidents of institutions of
14 the State System of Higher Education appointed by the
15 Governor from a list of three qualified president
16 representatives recommended by the Chancellor of the State
17 System of Higher Education.

18 (4) One representative of presidents of community
19 colleges appointed by the Governor from a list of three
20 qualified president representatives recommended by the
21 Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges.

22 (5) One representative of chief school administrators
23 appointed by the Governor from a list of three qualified
24 chief school administrators recommended by the Pennsylvania
25 Association of Intermediate Units.

26 (6) One member of the State Board of Education appointed
27 by the Secretary of Education.

28 (7) One representative of chief school administrators
29 appointed by the Governor from a list of three qualified
30 chief school administrators recommended by the Pennsylvania

1 Association of Career and Technical Administrators.

2 (8) One representative of directors of economic
3 development entities appointed by the Governor from a list of
4 three qualified director representatives recommended by the
5 Pennsylvania Economic Development Association.

6 (9) One representative of presidents of local chambers
7 of business and industry appointed by the Governor from a
8 list of three qualified presidents recommended by the
9 Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry.

10 (10) Six chief executive officers in high-growth
11 industries that collectively represent the business diversity
12 of this Commonwealth, accounting for size, geography and
13 industry appointed by the following:

14 (i) Two members appointed by the Governor, one of
15 whom shall be from a list of three qualified chief
16 executive officers recommended in a letter of interest by
17 the staff of the council.

18 (ii) One member appointed by the President pro
19 tempore of the Senate.

20 (iii) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of
21 the Senate.

22 (iv) One member appointed by the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives.

24 (v) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of
25 the House of Representatives.

26 (11) The Governor, the Secretary of Community and
27 Economic Development, the Secretary of Education, the
28 Secretary of Labor and Industry, the President pro tempore of
29 the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of
30 the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the

1 House of Representatives, who shall be ex officio members.

2 (c) Designees.--Governmental members may appoint a designee
3 to attend and vote at meetings of the council. Each governmental
4 member who appoints a designee shall do so by sending a letter
5 to the chairperson stating the name of the designee.

6 (d) Terms.--The following shall apply:

7 (1) The initial terms of members appointed under
8 subsection (b) shall be staggered as follows:

9 (i) Five members shall serve a term of one year.

10 (ii) Five members shall serve a term of two years.

11 (iii) Five members shall serve a term of three
12 years.

13 (2) The subsequent terms of members appointed under
14 subsection (b) shall be three years.

15 (e) Vacancies.--If a vacancy on the council occurs, the
16 appointing authority shall appoint an individual to fill the
17 vacancy in accordance with the criteria under subsection (b).

18 (f) Executive director.--The following shall apply:

19 (1) The Governor shall nominate an individual as
20 executive director to the council. The council shall ratify
21 the nomination for executive director with a vote of a simple
22 majority of the members of the council.

23 (2) The executive director may hire additional staff as
24 necessary and as funding allows.

25 (g) Council leadership.--The following shall apply:

26 (1) The Governor shall serve as the chairperson of the
27 council.

28 (2) The Governor shall select an appointed business
29 chief executive to serve as vice-chairperson of the council
30 in accordance with subsection (b).

1 (h) Meetings.--The following shall apply:

2 (1) The council shall meet at the call of the
3 chairperson, but no less than four times a year.

4 (2) The chairperson, in consultation with the vice-
5 chairperson, shall establish the agenda for each meeting of
6 the council.

7 (i) Quorum and official action.--The following shall apply:

8 (1) A majority of voting members of the council shall
9 constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

10 (2) The affirmative votes of a majority of voting
11 members of the council are necessary for the council to take
12 official action.

13 (j) Reimbursement.--The members of the council may not
14 receive a salary or per diem allowance for serving as members of
15 the council, but shall be reimbursed for the actual and
16 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the members'
17 duties.

18 (k) Funding.--The council may accept appropriations from the
19 General Assembly, grants from the Federal Government, grants
20 from the Commonwealth, money from private entities or any
21 combination thereof.

22 (l) Conflict of interest.--A member of the council may not
23 vote on a matter under consideration by the council:

24 (1) regarding the provision of services by the member or
25 by an entity that the member represents; or

26 (2) which would provide direct financial benefit to the
27 member or the immediate family of the member.

28 Section 4. Duties of the council.

29 (a) Duties.--The council shall:

30 (1) Within 180 days of the effective date of this

1 section, develop a vision and mission statement that makes
2 clear the council's purpose as well as the respective roles
3 and responsibilities of council members.

4 (2) Within one year of the effective date of this
5 section, develop a plan in consultation with the Pennsylvania
6 Workforce Investment Board to improve this Commonwealth's
7 career readiness preparation system. The plan developed under
8 this paragraph shall include, but not be limited to:

9 (i) Proposed changes to:

10 (A) improve the transition from K-12 education
11 and postsecondary education to the work force; and

12 (B) ensure that programs are aligned with
13 current or anticipated business and industry needs.

14 (ii) Proposed changes, including recommended
15 legislation and rules, to increase coordination, data
16 sharing and communication among State, local and private
17 agencies, groups and associations that are involved in
18 education, job skills development and career training.

19 (iii) Proposed changes to make this Commonwealth a
20 leader in employment opportunities related to the fields
21 of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

22 (3) Identify appropriate information and request
23 appropriate data disaggregated by subgroups from council
24 members in order to make recommendations for system
25 improvement and set goals regarding, at minimum, the
26 following areas:

27 (i) Availability of and access to high-quality
28 career pathways in high-skill, high-demand industry
29 occupations spanning secondary and postsecondary
30 education.

1 (ii) Availability of and access to high-quality
2 work-based learning and preapprenticeship/apprenticeship
3 opportunities.

4 (iii) Availability of and access to postsecondary
5 credit and industry-recognized credentials in high-skill,
6 high-demand occupations, especially those related to the
7 fields of science, technology, engineering and
8 mathematics.

9 (4) Develop a sustainable process for identifying and
10 addressing equity gaps in the career preparation delivery
11 system.

12 (5) Develop a sustainable process for identifying
13 opportunities to align this Commonwealth's education and
14 training pipeline in response to labor market needs,
15 including, but not limited to:

16 (i) Cataloging all funding sources, including
17 Federal, State and private, that can be utilized for
18 education, career training and work force preparation.

19 (ii) Reviewing funding streams for overlaps and gaps
20 with a special focus on identifying areas with
21 inequitable student access.

22 (iii) Developing and implementing plans to improve
23 alignment and more effectively prepare all secondary
24 students for postsecondary success in high-skill, high-
25 demand occupations.

26 (iv) Identifying strategies for leveraging and
27 aligning Federal, State and private funding sources.

28 (6) Create a public repository that includes, but is not
29 limited to, national and state model partnerships between
30 industry and education, career pathway programs in this

1 Commonwealth and other national and state best practices in
2 career readiness preparation.

3 (7) Coordinate Statewide and regional conventions to:

4 (i) highlight national and state best practices;

5 (ii) connect the work within this Commonwealth; and

6 (iii) benchmark the work toward national standards.

7 (8) Develop and maintain a marketing, communications and
8 stakeholder engagement strategy, with a website and other
9 public materials, to be maintained by the executive director
10 and council staff.

11 (9) Obtain input from the following:

12 (i) Employers and employer organizations located in
13 this Commonwealth.

14 (ii) State System of Higher Education institutions,
15 State-related institutions, community colleges and
16 independent institutions of higher education.

17 (iii) Regional and local economic development
18 organizations.

19 (iv) Labor organizations located in this
20 Commonwealth.

21 (v) Individuals with expertise in career readiness
22 preparation activities.

23 (vi) Local workforce investment boards.

24 (vii) School entities.

25 (viii) Military and veterans organizations.

26 (ix) Organizations representing women, African
27 Americans, Latinos and other significant minority
28 populations, and having an interest in issues of
29 particular concern to these populations.

30 (x) Any other individual or organization that a

1 majority of the voting members of the council determines
2 has information that is important for the council to
3 consider.

4 (b) Report.--The council shall submit an annual report to
5 the General Assembly, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief
6 Clerk of the House of Representatives that details the progress
7 made by the council according to the plan referenced under
8 subsection (a) (2), with accompanying recommendations for further
9 action to be taken.

10 Section 5. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.