

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2788 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY TOPPER, REESE, BOROWICZ, COX, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DAVANZO, DOWLING, DRISCOLL, DUSH, ECKER, EVERETT, GABLER, GLEIM, GREGORY, GROVE, HEFFLEY, HILL-EVANS, JOZWIAK, KAUFFMAN, KEEFER, KLUNK, KNOWLES, MARSHALL, MILLARD, MIZGORSKI, OBERLANDER, PEIFER, POLINCHOCK, SANKEY, SAYLOR, SCHMITT, THOMAS, WARNER, LONGIETTI AND SAINATO, AUGUST 18, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AUGUST 18, 2020

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 terms and courses of study,  
 6 providing for option year of education due to COVID-19.

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 1501.11. Option Year of Education Due to COVID-19.--  
 13 (a) The welfare of this Commonwealth requires that the present  
 14 generation of school age children be provided ample opportunity  
 15 to develop to their fullest intellectual capacities. It is the  
 16 intent of the General Assembly to ensure that the present  
 17 generation of school age children do not lose educational

1 opportunities due to the proclamation of disaster emergency  
2 issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B.  
3 1644 (March 21, 2020).

4 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the  
5 2021-2022 school year, a parent may elect to have a child in a  
6 school entity repeat a grade level to make up for any lost  
7 educational opportunities during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021  
8 school years regardless of whether the child met the  
9 requirements to be promoted to the next grade level. The  
10 parental election under this subsection shall include  
11 participation in all academic or extracurricular activities.

12 (c) A school entity shall create a process for a parent to  
13 make the election under subsection (b) and post the process on  
14 its publicly accessible Internet website.

15 (d) As used in this section, the term "school entity" shall  
16 mean a school district, intermediate unit, area career and  
17 technical school, charter school, cyber charter school, regional  
18 charter school or nonpublic school entity.

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.