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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2193 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY D. COSTA, O'BRIEN, STURLA, JAMES, SCHLOSSBERG,  
V. BROWN, READSHAW, NEILSON, DeLUCA, THOMAS AND JOZWIAK,  
JUNE 21, 2016

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 21, 2016

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for training for certain  
3 appointed officials.

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

6 Section 1. Title 65 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 15

9 TRAINING FOR CERTAIN APPOINTED OFFICIALS

10 Sec.

11 1501. Short title of chapter.

12 1502. Legislative intent.

13 1503. Definitions.

14 1504. Individuals who must complete training.

15 1505. Contents of training.

16 1506. When training must be taken.

17 1507. Development of training.

18 1508. Cost of training.

1 1509. Failure to complete training.

2 1510. Enforcement.

3 1511. Regulations and opinions.

4 § 1501. Short title of chapter.

5 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Training  
6 for Appointed Officials Act.

7 § 1502. Legislative intent.

8 It is the intent of the General Assembly that this chapter  
9 promote greater understanding by individuals who are appointed  
10 to the boards, commissions, authorities or agencies of the  
11 Commonwealth regarding open records, public proceedings and  
12 fiduciary responsibilities associated with their government  
13 service.

14 § 1503. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Commission." The State Ethics Commission.

19 "Commonwealth entity." A board, commission, authority or  
20 agency of the Commonwealth, whether or not the entity is subject  
21 to the policy supervision and control of the Governor. The term  
22 does not include a court or agency of the unified judicial  
23 system, the General Assembly or its agencies, a State-related  
24 institution, a political subdivision or a local, regional or  
25 metropolitan transportation authority.

26 "State-related institution." The Pennsylvania State  
27 University, the University of Pittsburgh, Lincoln University or  
28 Temple University.

29 § 1504. Individuals who must complete training.

30 Each individual who is appointed as a member of a

1 Commonwealth entity shall complete training under this chapter.

2 § 1505. Contents of training.

3 Training under this chapter shall include the following  
4 topics at a minimum:

5 (1) The act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as  
6 the Right-to-Know Law.

7 (2) Chapter 7 (relating to open meetings).

8 (3) Confidential information as defined in section 1102  
9 (relating to definitions).

10 (4) Ethical standards and fiduciary rights and  
11 responsibilities of an individual appointed as a member of a  
12 Commonwealth entity.

13 (5) The protection of Constitutional rights regarding  
14 procedures of and matters considered by a Commonwealth  
15 entity.

16 § 1506. When training must be taken.

17 Training under this chapter shall be completed as follows:

18 (1) For an individual who has been appointed or  
19 reappointed as a member of a Commonwealth entity on or after  
20 the effective date of this section, no later than 90 days  
21 after the appointment or reappointment.

22 (2) For an individual who is a member of a Commonwealth  
23 entity and who was appointed or reappointed to the  
24 Commonwealth entity before the effective date of this  
25 section, no later than 120 days after the effective date of  
26 this section.

27 § 1507. Development of training.

28 The commission or its designee shall develop and administer  
29 training under this chapter.

30 § 1508. Cost of training.

1 The commission shall determine the cost, if any, that an  
2 individual must pay for training under this chapter.

3 § 1509. Failure to complete training.

4 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection (b), an  
5 individual who does not complete the required training in a  
6 timely manner under this chapter may not:

7 (1) take the oath of office or enter or continue upon  
8 the duties as a member of the Commonwealth entity; or

9 (2) receive compensation from public funds as a member  
10 of the Commonwealth entity.

11 (b) Exception.--An individual who does not complete the  
12 required training in a timely manner under this chapter shall be  
13 given the opportunity to demonstrate good cause to the  
14 commission as to the reason that the training was not completed  
15 in a timely manner. If the commission determines that good cause  
16 exists, it shall waive the penalties under subsection (a) until  
17 the individual has had a reasonable opportunity to complete the  
18 training.

19 § 1510. Enforcement.

20 The commission shall enforce the provisions of this chapter.

21 § 1511. Regulations and opinions.

22 The commission shall promulgate regulations necessary to  
23 implement the provisions of this chapter and may issue opinions  
24 regarding the administration of this chapter.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 90 days.