

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 20

Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY STAIRS, BAKER, SAYLOR, TRUE, HERMAN, KING, BROWN,
FARGO, COLAIZZO, KREBS, ARMSTRONG, LYNCH, PLATTS, HERSHEY,
FLEAGLE, EGOLF, COWELL, SCHULER, RUDY, RAYMOND, MILLER, HESS,
HALUSKA, STERN, B. SMITH, GEIST, COY, TULLI, STEELMAN, MERRY,
MARSICO, LLOYD, CIVERA, YOUNGBLOOD, GORDNER, LEH AND
MAITLAND, JANUARY 19, 1995

AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 24, 1995

AN ACT

1 Providing for agricultural education programs; AND imposing <—
2 duties on the Department of Education.; ~~and creating the~~ <—
3 ~~Advisory Council on Agricultural Education.~~

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Agricultural
8 Education Act.

9 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

10 The General Assembly declares it is the purpose of this act
11 to:

12 (1) Require the Department of Education to develop and
13 disseminate agricultural education materials for the <—
14 ~~educational systems of this Commonwealth~~ SCHOOL ENTITIES OR <—
15 PRIVATE OR NONPUBLIC KINDERGARTENS, ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY
16 SCHOOLS IN THIS COMMONWEALTH. The materials shall incorporate

1 agricultural concepts into the basic school curricula and
2 shall be designed to educate the general student population
3 about the importance of the agriculture industry and the role
4 of agriculture in the students' lives.

5 (2) Encourage the agricultural education efforts of
6 other agencies where appropriate, including, but not limited
7 to, those of the county conservation districts, the
8 Cooperative Extension Service of the Pennsylvania State
9 University, the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School,
10 the Department of Agriculture, the Department of
11 Environmental Resources, the Department of Community Affairs,
12 the State System of Higher Education and the Department of
13 Transportation.

14 ~~(3) Create and establish the Advisory Council on~~ <—
15 ~~Agricultural Education within the Department of Education.~~

16 Section 3. Definitions.

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

20 ~~"Council." The Advisory Council on Agricultural Education~~ <—
21 ~~established under this act.~~

22 "Department." The Department of Education of the
23 Commonwealth.

24 "Farmer." Any person who engages in the accepted activities,
25 practices and procedures year after year to produce and prepare
26 for market poultry, livestock and their products or in the
27 production and harvesting of agricultural, agronomic,
28 horticultural, silvicultural and aquacultural crops and
29 commodities and whose operation is conducted on not less than
30 ten contiguous acres in area or, if less than ten contiguous

1 acres in area, has an anticipated yearly gross income of at
2 least \$10,000.

3 "SCHOOL ENTITY." A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, INTERMEDIATE UNIT <—
4 OR AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

5 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.
6 Section 4. Powers and duties of department.

7 The department shall have the power and its duty shall be to:

8 (1) Provide ~~assistance, support and~~ resource information <—
9 to educators and public and private ~~education agencies~~ <—
10 SCHOOLS and organizations on agricultural education. <—

11 (2) Provide for distribution to ~~educational systems~~ <—
12 SCHOOL ENTITIES OR PRIVATE OR NONPUBLIC KINDERGARTENS, <—
13 ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THIS COMMONWEALTH
14 materials on agricultural education. Such materials may
15 include instruction on issues related to agriculture,
16 including, but not limited to, food safety, pesticides,
17 farmland preservation, waste management, wetlands, nutrient
18 management, food production and food processing, animal
19 health and statutory and regulatory protections of the right
20 to farm.

21 (3) Identify, recognize and establish awards for
22 exemplary agricultural education curricula developed in
23 Commonwealth schools.

24 (4) Use ~~the department's council and~~ local school <—
25 district occupational advisory committees to serve as the
26 conduit to bring youth and adult education programs into
27 communities and schools, focusing on agricultural industry
28 issues of importance to this Commonwealth.

29 Section 5. Agricultural education report.

30 The secretary shall prepare and submit an annual report to

1 the Governor and the General Assembly outlining agricultural
2 education programs and achievements, highlighting new
3 initiatives and recommending future program needs.

4 ~~Section 6. Advisory Council on Agricultural Education.~~ <—

5 ~~(a) Duties. There is hereby created the Advisory Council on~~
6 ~~Agricultural Education within the Department of Education. The~~
7 ~~council shall:~~

8 ~~(1) Advise and assist the secretary in conducting a~~
9 ~~continual assessment of the trends and needs in agricultural~~
10 ~~education.~~

11 ~~(2) Advise and assist the secretary in carrying out~~
12 ~~agricultural education activities.~~

13 ~~(3) Make recommendations to the secretary with respect~~
14 ~~to the use of any funds used to support agricultural~~
15 ~~education activities.~~

16 ~~(4) Make recommendations to the secretary to help foster~~
17 ~~agricultural education programs.~~

18 ~~(b) Composition. The council shall consist of 13 members,~~
19 ~~as follows:~~

20 ~~(1) The secretary, who shall serve as chairperson.~~

21 ~~(2) The Secretary of Agriculture.~~

22 ~~(3) Eleven members to be appointed by the secretary as~~
23 ~~follows:~~

24 ~~(i) Three Commonwealth residents representing the~~
25 ~~food processing industry.~~

26 ~~(ii) Three Commonwealth residents who are active in~~
27 ~~the agricultural production industry, at least one of~~
28 ~~which shall be a farmer.~~

29 ~~(iii) Three Commonwealth residents representing the~~
30 ~~agricultural marketing industry.~~

~~(iv) One representative of an agricultural college from a State related university.~~

~~(v) One member who is a vocational agriculture teacher. In appointing this member, the secretary shall consider nominees recommended by the Pennsylvania Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association.~~

~~In appointing members representing the food processing, commercial agricultural production and commercial agricultural marketing industries, the secretary shall consider nominees from listings prepared and submitted by the Pennsylvania Council of Farm Organizations, the Agriculture Awareness Foundation and the public at large.~~

~~(c) Appointments, terms and expenses. The terms of office for each of the 11 appointed council members shall be three years. However, the initial appointment of members representing the food processing, agricultural production and agricultural marketing industries shall be as follows:~~

~~(1) One member representing each industry shall be appointed for a term of one year.~~

~~(2) One member representing each industry shall be appointed for a term of two years.~~

~~(3) One member representing each industry shall be appointed for a term of three years.~~

~~A member may be appointed for more than one term and shall serve until a successor has been appointed. Members shall not be compensated but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses in accordance with the rules of the executive board.~~

~~(d) Offices and bylaws. The council shall convene at least annually, shall elect a vice chairperson to serve a one year term and shall adopt bylaws for governing its operations.~~

1 ~~(c) Staff. The secretary shall designate staff as may be~~
2 ~~necessary for the operation of the council.~~

3 SECTION 6. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY. <—

4 (A) CONSULTATION.--THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION SHALL CONSULT,
5 AT LEAST ANNUALLY, WITH THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND A CROSS
6 SECTION OF THE AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION COMMUNITIES TO:

7 (1) ASSESS THE TRENDS AND NEEDS IN AGRICULTURAL
8 EDUCATION.

9 (2) CONSIDER THE MANNER IN WHICH ANY FUNDS ARE USED TO
10 SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

11 (3) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY REGARDING LEGISLATIVE OR REGULATORY CHANGES TO
13 IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, PURSUANT TO THE PREPARATION
14 AND SUBMITTAL OF THE REPORT REQUIRED BY SECTION 5.

15 (B) PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS.--WHEN CONSULTING WITH A
16 CROSS SECTION OF THE AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION COMMUNITIES, THE
17 SECRETARY SHALL CONSIDER SEEKING COMMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS NAMED
18 IN LISTS SUBMITTED BY THE STATE COUNCIL ON FARM ORGANIZATIONS,
19 THE AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS FOUNDATION AND THE PENNSYLVANIA
20 VOCATIONAL-AGRICULTURAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION. SUCH LISTS MAY
21 INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

22 (1) FARMERS.

23 (2) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING AND
24 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING INDUSTRIES.

25 (3) FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL
26 SCIENCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY.

27 (4) FACULTY MEMBERS FROM A STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER
28 EDUCATION INSTITUTION, EACH OF WHOM SHALL HAVE BACKGROUND IN
29 OR KNOWLEDGE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

30 (5) A TEACHER OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE.

1 (6) A TEACHER INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION OTHER
2 THAN VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE.

3 (7) AN ADMINISTRATOR OF A SCHOOL ENTITY WHICH CONDUCTS
4 AN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

5 (8) A MEMBER OF A LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OCCUPATIONAL
6 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

7 (9) MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT
8 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

9 Section 7. Effective date.

10 This act shall take effect in 60 days.