

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1319 Session of
1999

INTRODUCED BY HERMAN, STAIRS, SCHULER, STEELMAN, BARD, BUNT,
CORNELL, LAUGHLIN, MELIO, S. MILLER, READSHAW, SCRIMENTI,
STURLA AND THOMAS, APRIL 15, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 15, 1999

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," providing for gifted and talented
6 education professional requirements; and further providing
7 for special temporary or permanent certificates.

8 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

9 The General Assembly recognizes that one of this
10 Commonwealth's greatest assets is the minds of its students. The
11 General Assembly believes that all students deserve the highest
12 quality instruction possible and that this instruction will only
13 occur when teachers are aware of and able to respond to the
14 unique qualities and characteristics of the students they
15 instruct. In an effort to ensure that gifted and talented
16 students are provided the educational resources necessary to
17 meet their unique needs it is the intent of the General Assembly
18 to have educators learned in the most effective techniques to
19 challenge and inspire the intellect and creativity of gifted and
20 talented students.

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

Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
section to read:

Section 1205.2. Gifted and Talented Education Professional
Requirements.--In addition to any other requirement of this act,
a continuing professional development plan established under
section 1205.1 shall include education activities, learning
experiences, professional education courses or collegiate study
addressing gifted and talented education.

Section 2. Section 1207 of the act is amended to read:

Section 1207. Special Temporary or Permanent Certificates.--
[The Superintendent of Public Instruction] (a) The Secretary of
Education shall provide for special examinations, and for
temporary or permanent certificates, for teachers of
kindergartens, gifted and talented, drawing, vocal music, manual
training, physical training and other special branches.

(b) The Department of Education shall develop written
standards for teacher preparation program approval and teacher
certification for certification in gifted and talented
education. Minimum standards for certification in gifted and
talented education shall include:

(1) a post-baccalaureate program with a minimum of six (6)
credit hours in education and psychology of the exceptional
child;

(2) twelve (12) credit hours in an elementary subject
discipline or twenty-four (24) credit hours in a secondary
subject discipline;

(3) a practicum of directed teaching experience with gifted

1 and talented students; and

2 (4) a minimum of three (3) years' teaching experience.

3 (c) A certification in gifted and talented education shall
4 be required of a professional who spends the majority of
5 teaching time with gifted and talented students in a public
6 school in this Commonwealth after June 30, 2000.

7 (d) The [Superintendent of Public Instruction] Secretary of
8 Education may issue temporary or permanent certificates for the
9 teaching of such special subjects to graduates of approved
10 special schools of such subjects, under such conditions as he
11 may make.

12 Section 3. The State Board of Education shall develop
13 regulations relative to the implementation and administration of
14 this act.

15 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.