
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 208 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY MUSTO, RHOADES, BOSCOLA, STOUT, FONTANA, COSTA,
WASHINGTON, O'PAKE AND FUMO, MARCH 7, 2007

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 7, 2007

AN ACT

1 Providing for demonstration programs and grants; providing for
2 the establishment of an advisory committee; authorizing the
3 Department of Education to administer funding of the selected
4 demonstration projects; and establishing the Horticultural
5 Education and Demonstration Fund.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Horticultural
10 Education and Demonstration Act.

11 Section 2. Legislative findings.

12 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

13 (1) The horticultural industry is comprised of numerous
14 sectors of the agricultural economy, including vegetable
15 growers, fruit growers, nurseries, Christmas tree growers,
16 flower growers, sod growers, lawn care professionals and
17 landscape architects.

18 (2) All citizens of this Commonwealth benefit from the
19 products and services provided by the horticultural industry.

1 (3) The horticultural industry contributes to the
2 overall success of agriculture in this Commonwealth.

3 (4) Horticulture is a lifelong learning activity and
4 home horticulture is one of the leading leisure activities in
5 the country.

6 (5) To ensure that Pennsylvania remains a leader in the
7 horticultural industry, horticultural sciences must be
8 integrated into environmental education so that natural
9 resources are protected and the future demand for
10 horticultural products can be met.

11 (6) Horticultural education is essential if the
12 Commonwealth is to meet the environmental, social and
13 economic challenges facing the horticultural industry.

14 (7) Collaborative efforts to integrate horticulture and
15 environmental education in the classroom can be beneficial to
16 all students.

17 Section 3. Legislative purpose.

18 It is the purpose of this act to:

19 (1) Require The Pennsylvania State University's
20 Cooperative Extension Service and Department of Horticulture,
21 the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Conservation
22 and Natural Resources, the department, the Department of
23 Environmental Protection and school districts to develop and
24 implement regional horticultural demonstration programs for
25 citizens and students of this Commonwealth.

26 (2) Encourage the efforts and cooperation of other
27 schools, organizations and agencies where appropriate.

28 (3) Provide funding for the development of regional
29 horticultural demonstration programs.

30 Section 4. Definitions.

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

4 "Committee." The Horticultural Advisory and Review Committee
5 established under section 5.

6 "Department." The Department of Education of the
7 Commonwealth.

8 "Fund." The Horticultural Education and Demonstration Fund
9 established by this act.

10 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.
11 Section 5. Horticultural Advisory and Review Committee.

12 (a) Establishment.--The Horticultural Advisory and Review
13 Committee is established. The committee has the following
14 duties:

15 (1) Review proposals and take into account any comments
16 submitted by a school district affected by the proposal.

17 (2) Recommend to the department a prioritization for
18 funding proposals.

19 (3) Recommend to the department proposals for funding in
20 accordance with section 8.

21 (4) Advise the department on any activities authorized
22 by this act.

23 (b) Membership.--The committee shall be made up of the
24 following members:

25 (1) The secretary or a designee.

26 (2) The Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources
27 or a designee.

28 (3) The Secretary of Environmental Protection or a
29 designee.

30 (4) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee.

1 (5) The Director of The Pennsylvania State University's
2 Cooperative Extension Service or a designee.

3 (6) The head of the Department of Horticulture of The
4 Pennsylvania State University or a designee.

5 (7) Three members representing Statewide or regional
6 horticultural organizations appointed by the Secretary of
7 Agriculture.

8 (8) Three members representing basic education appointed
9 by the secretary.

10 (9) Two members representing Statewide environmental
11 organizations appointed jointly by the Secretary of
12 Environmental Protection and Secretary of Conservation and
13 Natural Resources.

14 Section 6. Responsibilities of the Department of Education.

15 The department shall have the duty to:

16 (1) Review and approve six horticultural demonstration
17 projects.

18 (2) Ensure that the demonstration projects are located
19 in regions of this Commonwealth known for their horticultural
20 products.

21 (3) Select the demonstration projects after consulting
22 with the committee.

23 (4) Enter into grant agreements with grantees.

24 Section 7. Scope.

25 The money authorized by this act shall be disbursed only to
26 school districts involved in horticultural projects and
27 activities. Any school district seeking funding for
28 demonstration projects shall coordinate its proposal with the
29 county cooperative extension office in which the proposed
30 demonstration project is located.

1 Section 8. Horticultural Education and Demonstration Fund.

2 (a) Establishment.--There is established a restricted fund
3 in the State Treasury to be known as the Horticultural Education
4 and Demonstration Fund. Upon approval of the Governor, funds may
5 be deposited or transferred into this fund at the beginning of
6 each fiscal year from sources which are consistent with the
7 proposed uses specified under this act. The fund may be
8 supplemented by appropriations from the General Assembly; the
9 Federal, State or local government; or any private source.

10 (b) Grants.--All money placed in the fund are hereby
11 appropriated to the Department of Education on a continuing
12 basis for the purpose of providing grants to eligible school
13 districts for horticultural demonstration projects.

14 Section 9. Proposal approval process.

15 (a) Proposal for grants.--

16 (1) School districts interested in receiving grants
17 under this act shall submit a proposal to the department and
18 shall notify and consult with the county cooperative
19 extension office in which a project is proposed that a
20 proposal has been submitted. The proposal shall contain
21 necessary and appropriate information as required by the
22 department.

23 (2) The department shall forward to the committee all
24 proposals which are received.

25 (b) Funding recommendations.--The committee shall review all
26 proposals and make funding recommendations to the department.

27 (c) Departmental decisions.--The department shall consider
28 the committee's recommendations in making proposal funding
29 decisions. The department shall issue grants to school
30 districts.

1 (d) School districts receiving funds.--School districts that
2 receive funding under this act shall comply with all applicable
3 laws.

4 (e) Limitations on funding.--Nothing contained in this act
5 shall require or authorize the secretary to provide any funding
6 in excess of the money available under section 8.

7 (f) Departmental conditions.--A grant awarded under this
8 section shall be subject to terms and conditions as established
9 by the department.

10 Section 10. Report on activity.

11 The department and committee shall prepare an annual report
12 identifying available funding, number of projects proposed,
13 number of school districts participating and any other
14 information deemed appropriate and shall submit the report to
15 the General Assembly.

16 Section 30. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect in 60 days.