

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2460 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, SHAPIRO, CLYMER, JOHNSON, THOMAS,
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READSHAW, SANTARSIERO, SIPTROTH, BRIGGS, GIBBONS AND HARKINS,
APRIL 27, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 27, 2010

AN ACT

1 Establishing the MESA Initiative; providing for duties of
2 Department of Education; and establishing the State MESA
3 Commission.

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 Pennsylvania
8 MESA Initiative Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Commission." The State MESA Commission established under
14 section 4.

15 "Department." The Department of Education of the
16 Commonwealth.

1 "MESA." Mathematics, engineering and science achievement.

2 "MESA Initiative." The program established under section 3
3 to promote science, engineering and mathematics education.

4 "STEM." Science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

5 Section 3. MESA Initiative.

6 The MESA Initiative is hereby established as a program within
7 the department that shall seek to increase exposure, educational
8 motivation and achievement of students in science, engineering
9 and mathematics and build individual and regional capacity to
10 compete for STEM-based jobs in the global market with a
11 particular emphasis on students, parents, educators and
12 employers from urban and rural groups who have historically had
13 the lowest levels of high school diploma attainment and
14 participation in college and graduate education.

15 Section 4. Administration of MESA Initiative.

16 (a) Designation of administrative agency.--The department
17 shall administer the MESA Initiative, including Statewide MESA
18 funding, operations, regional groups, programs and evaluations.

19 (b) Coordination.--The department shall coordinate the
20 efforts of the Commonwealth agencies that relate to MESA
21 education from the kindergarten level through the graduate level
22 to avoid unnecessary duplication of initiatives and ensure
23 adherence to established guidelines.

24 (c) Structure of STEM regions.--The department shall work
25 with the TEAM PA Foundation and the five established STEM
26 regions in this Commonwealth to create in each STEM region an
27 infrastructure for the MESA Initiative to support not fewer than
28 four professional staff, 20 retired industry mentors, 20
29 certified MESA teacher-coordinators and school administrators.

30 (d) Duties.--The department shall have the following duties:

1 (1) Developing annual goals and objectives for improving
2 MESA programs throughout this Commonwealth with particular
3 emphasis on regional economic and educational needs.

4 (2) No later than 30 days after developing the goals and
5 objectives under paragraph (1):

6 (i) Disseminating the goals and objectives to the
7 State MESA Commission and the MESA regions.

8 (ii) Communicating the goals and objectives to all
9 relevant agencies of the Commonwealth and collaborative
10 regional entities.

11 (iii) Making the goals and objectives available to
12 the general public, particularly to stakeholders.

13 (3) Coordinating and facilitating communication and
14 cooperation among all MESA regions and assuring compliance
15 with established guidelines for the MESA Initiative.

16 (4) Conducting an ongoing inventory and assessment of
17 the effectiveness and coherence of efforts within the MESA
18 regions.

19 (5) Annually evaluating the progress and success of the
20 MESA regions at achieving the goals and objectives under
21 paragraph (1).

22 (6) Consulting with the Commonwealth agencies when
23 developing policies and initiatives related to MESA.

24 (7) Strengthening partnerships between the national MESA
25 community, Federal, State and local governments and relevant
26 international partners.

27 (8) Conducting an annual meeting on the status of the
28 MESA Initiative, in conjunction with:

29 (i) Relevant State agencies.

30 (ii) The State MESA Commission, as hosting entity.

- (iii) Other state MESA Initiatives.
- (iv) Regional businesses and industries.
- (v) The State System of Higher Education.
- (vi) Education professionals from the kindergarten through graduate levels.
- (vii) Other relevant stakeholders.

Section 5. State MESA Commission.

(a) Establishment.--There is hereby established a State MESA Commission to oversee the advancement of mathematics, engineering, science and technology education.

(b) Membership.--The commission shall consist of the following members:

(1) Not fewer than two representatives from each MESA region appointed by the department.

(2) Elected officials, representatives of the department and stakeholders as appointed by the department.

(c) Study.--The commission shall evaluate and report to the General Assembly annually on the following:

(1) Efficacy of Statewide MESA Initiatives.

(2) Effective utilization of MESA Initiative resources.

(3) Influence of the MESA Initiative on:

(i) Student STEM aptitudes, as measured by standardized testing.

(ii) Teacher effectiveness.

(iii) STEM-based employment within MESA regions.

(d) Fiscal planning.--The commission shall propose a budget for the MESA Initiative aligned with the goals developed under section 4(d)(1).

(e) Meetings.--The commission shall meet no less often than quarterly.

1 Section 6. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect in 60 days.