

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL****No. 1930** Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY ENGLISH, LONGIETTI, KILLION, THOMAS, WATSON,  
MILLARD, REED, D. COSTA, ROCK, HEFFLEY, GINGRICH, ROEBUCK,  
DeLUCA, MURT, CLYMER, CALTAGIRONE, KINSEY, QUINN AND  
DENLINGER, JANUARY 2, 2014

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AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 19, 2014

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## 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 General Educational  
6 Development Test.

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

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

12 Section 1613.1. General Educational Development Test.--(a)

13 The General Assembly finds and declares:

14 (1) In this Commonwealth approximately twelve percent (12%)  
15 of residents twenty-five years of age and older do not have a  
16 high school diploma.

17 (2) The Commonwealth permits adults who do not possess a  
18 secondary school diploma and are not enrolled in a public or

1 non-public school to obtain a Commonwealth secondary school  
2 diploma upon passing the GED test.

3 (3) The GED test was created by the American Council on  
4 Education as a public service for veterans returning from World  
5 War II in 1942.

6 (4) The current GED test was last revised in 2002 and is  
7 known as the 2002 Series GED test, which is comprised of five  
8 parts.

9 (5) The 2002 Series GED will expire December 31, 2013, and,  
10 beginning January 2, 2014, the Commonwealth will only offer the  
11 2014 GED test.

12 (6) Individuals who have begun the 2002 Series GED test but  
13 have not successfully completed all five parts will be required  
14 to restart the new test in 2014.

15 (7) On the effective date of this section, approximately  
16 fifty-one thousand (51,000) people have taken at least part of  
17 the 2002 Series GED since 2002 and have not yet passed, with  
18 over fifteen thousand (15,000) Commonwealth residents with  
19 incomplete scores on the 2002 Series GED, which the individual  
20 will no longer be able to use to obtain the high school  
21 equivalency credential.

22 (b) It is the intent of this section to give an individual  
23 with incomplete scores additional time to obtain high school  
24 equivalency credentials using the scores that the individual has  
25 already successfully obtained so as many Commonwealth residents  
26 as possible can pursue better employment opportunities.

27 (c) Subject to subsection (d), within sixty (60) days of the  
28 effective date of this section, the Department of Education  
29 shall establish and implement a testing program by which  
30 individuals who have successfully completed at least one section

1 of the GED test prior to January 1, 2014, may obtain a  
2 Commonwealth secondary school diploma by using passing scores  
3 obtained prior to January 1, 2014, on the completed sections.

4 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, regulation  
5 or Department of Education policy, each individual who has  
6 successfully completed at least one section of the GED test  
7 prior to January 1, 2014, shall have eighteen (18) months from  
8 the effective date of this section to complete the testing  
9 program established under subsection ~~(a)~~ (C). <--

10 (e) This section shall expire eighteen (18) months from the  
11 effective date of this section.

12 (f) For the purposes of this section, the term "GED test"  
13 shall mean the General Educational Development test published by  
14 the General Educational Testing Service of the American Council  
15 on Education and administered under the authority of the  
16 Department of Education.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.