House Bill No. 19

Session of 2013


Referred to Committee on Education, January 4, 2013

AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study, providing for child exploitation awareness education.

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 1553.1. Child Exploitation Awareness Education.--(a) Each school district shall incorporate an age-appropriate child exploitation awareness education program into the school district's existing curriculum for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. In developing the program, the school district shall utilize the model guidelines developed by the Department of Education pursuant to subsection (c).

(b) Child exploitation awareness education may include, but
need not be limited to, defining child exploitation, recognizing
the types of child exploitation, creating awareness of warning
signs of child exploitation and providing students with
avoidance strategies.

(c) The Department of Education, through its Office for Safe
Schools and in consultation with at least one organization
addressing child exploitation, shall develop model guidelines
that school districts shall use in developing the education
program required under subsection (a). The department shall also
provide school districts with age-appropriate educational
materials regarding child exploitation awareness, which may
include educational materials that are already publicly
available.

(d) A parent or legal guardian of a student in kindergarten
through eighth grade, within a reasonable period of time after
the request is made, shall be permitted to examine the child
exploitation awareness education program instructional materials
at the school in which the student is enrolled.

(e) At the request of a parent or legal guardian, a student
shall be excused from all or parts of the child exploitation
awareness education program. The principal of the school in
which the student is enrolled shall notify all parents or legal
guardians of their ability to withdraw their children from
instruction in the program by returning a signed opt-out form,
after the parent or guardian has been offered the opportunity to
review the instructional materials.

(f) For purposes of this section, the following words and
phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection
unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Child exploitation." The term includes child abduction and
sexual abuse or exploitation.

"Sexual abuse or exploitation." The term shall have the meaning given to it under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6303 (relating to definitions).

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.