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 capstone course in personal finance as graduation requirement.

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 1551.1. Capstone Course in Personal Finance as Graduation Requirement.--(a) The State Board of Education shall require every candidate for a full high school diploma after September 2015, to receive at least one (1) semester of instruction in a stand-alone capstone course relating to personal finance at some time during grades eleven (11) or twelve (12) of the candidate's educational career.
(b) In order to fulfill this graduation requirement, school districts may choose from several delivery options for offering this course, including classroom instruction, which shall be the equivalent of one (1) semester or one-half (.5) credit, or as a standards-aligned, self-paced online or blended course which includes a district-approved, end-of-course assessment.

(c) Each school entity may utilize educational materials as provided for in section 1551 for the purpose of fulfilling this graduation requirement.

(d) The Department of Education shall make available and conduct professional development to school districts that request assistance in implementing the provisions of this section.

(e) As used in this section, "capstone course" means a course of study that occurs during grades eleven (11) or twelve (12) of a student's high school career that is designed to bring reflection and focus to the whole of the student's learning throughout the student's years of education on a particular subject and that is a comprehensive review of the subject matter being considered and in which course the work effectively culminates in each student demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

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