

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 604 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, MICOZZIE, B. BOYLE, ROZZI, O'BRIEN, BARRAR, THOMAS, COHEN, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, FRANKEL, MOLCHANY, PARKER AND ROEBUCK, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

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," in terms and courses of study,  
6 providing for violence prevention programs.

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 1554. Violence Prevention Program.--(a) Each public  
13 school student shall receive mandatory instruction in prevention  
14 of violence in society and in schools in every grade from  
15 kindergarten through grade twelve. The instruction shall be  
16 integrated within the health course of study required in  
17 accordance with the State Board of Education regulations. In  
18 grades where the health course is offered, instruction may also  
19 be integrated into other appropriate courses of study. In grades

1 where health is not offered, instruction shall be integrated  
2 into an appropriate curriculum requirement.

3 (1) This instruction:

4 (i) Shall be age appropriate.

5 (ii) Shall be sequential in method of study.

6 (iii) Shall explain the causes of violence.

7 (iv) Shall espouse the rejection of violence in society in  
8 general and in schools in particular.

9 (2) School districts may utilize any appropriate public or  
10 private materials, personnel and other resources in developing  
11 and implementing this program of instruction. The Pennsylvania  
12 State Police shall make available information about appropriate  
13 curriculum materials upon request of a school district.

14 (b) Each school district may develop and offer instruction  
15 and discussion relating to this program for parents of students  
16 enrolled in the public schools.

17 (c) The Department of Education shall develop curriculum  
18 guidelines for this program.

19 (d) The Department of Education shall make available to all  
20 school districts and intermediate units in-service training  
21 programs based upon the instruction requirements established in  
22 subsection (a) and the curriculum guidelines established in  
23 subsection (c).

24 (e) Each school district shall provide, as part of its in-  
25 service training, programs on violence prevention for all  
26 instructors whose teaching responsibilities include courses of  
27 study in which mandated instruction concerning violence  
28 prevention is integrated. To comply with this requirement, a  
29 school district may utilize the programs made available by the  
30 Department of Education or use other alternative programs.

1     (f) The governing board of each intermediate unit in which a  
2 nonpublic school is located shall lend to all students attending  
3 nonpublic schools within the intermediate unit all educational  
4 materials developed by the Department of Education pursuant to  
5 this section. Local school boards shall not be required to  
6 expend funds which are not provided by either the Federal  
7 Government or State government for the use or loan of these  
8 materials. A nonpublic school may utilize the in-service  
9 training programs made available by the Department of Education  
10 through the intermediate unit.

11     Section 2. The addition of section 1554 of the act shall  
12 apply to school years which begin after the effective date of  
13 this section.

14     Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.