
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2299 Session of
1996

INTRODUCED BY VEON, COY, ROONEY, BELARDI, SEMMEL, DALEY, KREBS,
GORDNER, VAN HORNE, JOSEPHS, BATTISTO, FAJT, THOMAS, SHANER,
COLAFELLA, CAPPABIANCA, MELIO, TRICH, BOSCOLA, WALKO, CURRY,
RAMOS, ITKIN, YOUNGBLOOD AND STEELMAN, JANUARY 2, 1996

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 2, 1996

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 a Pennsylvania
6 Institute for State Policy; and making an appropriation.

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

9 Section 1. Section 2001-A of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
11 amended by adding a clause to read:

12 Section 2001-A. Definitions.--The following words and
13 phrases when used in this article shall, for the purpose of this
14 article, have the following meanings, respectively, except in
15 those instances where the context clearly indicates a different
16 meaning:

17 * * *

18 (10.1) "Policy institute" shall mean the Pennsylvania
19 Institute for State Policy.

1 * * *

2 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

3 Section 2019-A. The Pennsylvania Institute for State
4 Policy.--(a) There is hereby established within the State
5 System of Higher Education the Pennsylvania Institute for State
6 Policy to assist in the nonpartisan development, implementation
7 and assessment of State policy at the executive and legislative
8 levels. The policy institute shall assist the executive and
9 legislative branches of State government in identifying public
10 policy issues to be addressed, developing public policy options,
11 implementing strategic plans for putting policy into place and
12 evaluating the consequences of State policy and programs.

13 (b) The policy institute shall be located within close
14 proximity to the Harrisburg Capitol Complex in order to permit
15 the greatest opportunity for consultation and interaction with
16 the legislative and executive branches of State government. The
17 policy institute may adopt any other appropriate designation as
18 its name.

19 (c) The policy institute shall consist of the following
20 members:

21 (1) Four legislative representatives, one legislator from
22 each caucus to be appointed by the presiding officer of each
23 caucus.

24 (2) The Secretary of Administration.

25 (3) Three Cabinet officials designated by the Governor.

26 (4) Two presidents of charitable foundations incorporated
27 and conducting business within this Commonwealth and designated
28 by the board.

29 (5) The chancellor.

30 (6) A president of an institution designated by the

1 commission of presidents.

2 (7) A full-time faculty member from an institution
3 designated by the board.

4 (8) A representative of a Statewide business organization.

5 (9) A representative of a Statewide labor organization.

6 Policy institute members shall bi-annually elect officers and
7 appoint committees as necessary.

8 (d) The policy institute's staff shall include: an executive
9 director, a grant and proposal writer, a research assistant and
10 a secretary/office manager. The executive director shall:

11 (1) be hired by and report to the membership of the policy
12 institute;

13 (2) serve as the secretary of the policy institute;

14 (3) be responsible for the hiring and management of the
15 other staff of the policy institute;

16 (4) contract for services as necessary and oversee the
17 administration of the policy institute; and

18 (5) perform other duties related to the institute as
19 necessary.

20 All staff shall be considered staff of the system.

21 (e) The policy institute shall as a part of fulfilling its
22 stated mission perform the following functions:

23 (1) Work with State policymakers in the General Assembly to
24 identify areas of public policy interest.

25 (2) Develop policy options for State policymakers, including
26 the production of policy monographs based on academic research
27 which have a series of possible policy options.

28 (3) Develop strategic implementation strategies for new
29 programs, program revisions or adjustments in policy by working
30 with the affected State agency or agencies.

1 (4) Evaluate designated programs and recommend adjustments
2 or corrective action.

3 (5) Function as a clearinghouse or coordinator for
4 partnership between private foundations, Commonwealth agencies
5 and the public.

6 (f) The policy institute shall:

7 (1) receive support services from both the system and from a
8 select parent institution of the State system, as selected by
9 the board;

10 (2) be authorized to receive and to seek funds from State
11 appropriations or grants, private entities and Federal
12 appropriations or grants;

13 (3) be authorized to hold moneys in trust and use the
14 interest to support its activities; and

15 (4) market its products to the public.

16 (g) The policy institute shall initially focus on the
17 following policy areas: basic education, health, welfare,
18 environmental protection, taxes, State government management,
19 economics and infrastructure and telecommunications. The areas
20 of focus are subject to change after the first year of operation
21 according to demand from the legislative and executive branches
22 of State government and according to need as determined by the
23 members of the policy institute.

24 (h) The policy institute shall offer the following services:

25 (1) Issue forums and seminars, policy retreats and
26 management training programs for public officials.

27 (2) Issue monographs and policy option monographs.

28 (3) Issue research, including focus groups, opinion
29 surveys and research projects, strategic plans and program
30 evaluation.

1 (i) The institute shall seek to establish an endowment by
2 which it may sustain itself independently through the proceeds
3 of the endowment and through the marketing of its products.

4 (j) The records of the policy institute shall be open to
5 public inspection. The policy institute shall annually submit an
6 independent audit report to the State Auditor and shall annually
7 report to the General Assembly on its activities.

8 Section 3. The sum of \$3,000,000 is hereby appropriated to
9 the State System of Higher Education to carry out the provisions
10 of this act.

11 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.