

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1715 Session of  
2001

INTRODUCED BY FREEMAN, ARGALL, HENNESSEY, BELFANTI, BISHOP,  
CALTAGIRONE, L. I. COHEN, COLAFELLA, CRUZ, CURRY, DALEY,  
DeWEESE, EACHUS, FRANKEL, GEORGE, GORDNER, GRUCELA, HORSEY,  
JAMES, JOSEPHS, KAISER, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, LEVDANSKY, MANN,  
McCALL, MELIO, PETRARCA, PISTELLA, PRESTON, ROBERTS, SANTONI,  
SOLOBAY, STABACK, STEELMAN, STURLA, SURRA, THOMAS, TIGUE,  
TRELLO, TRICH, WALKO, C. WILLIAMS, J. WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI,  
YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, JUNE 11, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 11, 2001

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 voter registration  
6 forms to be given to high school graduates.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1613 of the act of March 10, 1949  
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
11 amended December 15, 1986 (P.L.1602, No.178), is amended to  
12 read:

13 Section 1613. High School Certificates.--(a) The board of  
14 school directors, joint board of joint school committee  
15 operating any high school shall issue a certificate to each  
16 pupil satisfactorily completing the prescribed course of  
17 instruction in the high school.

(b) For those pupils graduating at the close of the school year 1989-1990, and each school year thereafter, the following minimum courses in grades nine through twelve are established as a requirement for high school graduation in schools operated by a bona fide church or other religious body:

(1) Four years of English.

(2) Three years of mathematics.

(3) Three years of science.

(4) Three years of social studies.

(5) Two years of arts and humanities.

(c) A child enrolled in a day or boarding school accredited by an accrediting association which is approved by the State Board of Education shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subsection (b).

(d) Voter registration forms shall also be given to pupils issued certificates under subsection (a) and who will be eligible to vote in the first election following their graduation. This subsection shall not apply to pupils in schools operated by a bona fide church or other religious body which has at any time filed an objection in writing with the Secretary of Education on the basis of a strong moral or ethical conviction constituting or similar to a religious belief.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.