

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1537

Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY O'NEILL, ARMSTRONG, CALTAGIRONE, CREIGHTON,
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MAY 5, 2005

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 14, 2006

AN ACT

1 Establishing a program for obtaining information from
2 institutions of higher education in a uniform manner to
3 permit statistical comparison; and imposing additional powers
4 and duties on the Department of Education and institutions of
5 higher education.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Teacher
10 Assessment Report Card Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
13 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Department." The Department of Education of the
16 Commonwealth.

17 "Institution of higher education." A public or private
18 college or university offering a teacher education program

1 approved by the Department of Education.

2 "Report card." The teacher assessment report card identified
3 in section 4 (relating to teacher assessment report card).

4 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

5 "Teacher assessment test for initial certification." The

6 ~~assessment test as defined by 22 Pa. Code § 49.18(a)(2)(ii)~~ <—

7 ~~(relating to assessment)~~. ASSESSMENT TOOL IDENTIFIED BY THE <—

8 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO BE USED TO EVALUATE A CANDIDATE'S

9 PREPAREDNESS FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION.

10 Section 3. Duties of institutions of higher education.

11 (a) General rule.--Each institution of higher education
12 shall complete a report card in accordance with this act and on
13 a uniform form prepared and furnished by the department.

14 (b) Time.--The report card form shall be completed by each
15 institution of higher education for each academic year and
16 forwarded to the department on a schedule to be established by
17 the secretary.

18 Section 4. Teacher assessment report card.

19 (a) General rule.--The teacher assessment report card shall
20 contain information to assist teachers, students and the general
21 public in assessing, evaluating and comparing the quality of
22 education being provided to higher education students in
23 approved teacher education programs.

24 (b) Access to report cards.--The secretary shall make use of
25 modern technology to assure wide access and distribution of the
26 information provided on the report cards and shall include such
27 information as the secretary in his discretion deems necessary
28 to assist the general public in assessing, evaluating, comparing
29 and understanding the quality of education being provided

30 ~~students in institutions of higher education~~. STUDENTS ENROLLED <—

1 IN TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
2 EDUCATION.

3 (c) Contents.--The report card form shall state that the
4 information is provided for the purpose of presenting an
5 overview of the applicable institution of higher education and
6 shall not be deemed to create a set of standards relating to the
7 quality of education being offered in that institution of higher
8 education and other institutions of higher education. This
9 information shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

10 (1) Number of students enrolled in approved
11 postsecondary teacher education programs in an academic year.

12 (2) Number of students who applied or were accepted to
13 take the teacher assessment test for initial certification in
14 that academic year.

15 (3) Number of students who passed the teacher assessment
16 test for initial certification after the first attempt.

17 (4) Number of students who passed the teacher assessment
18 test for initial certification after multiple attempts.

19 (5) Average number of attempts taken in order to pass
20 the teacher assessment test for initial certification.

21 (6) Report of the teacher assessment test for initial
22 certification results by the individual ~~licensure area~~. <—

23 SUBJECT MATTER OR CONTENT AREA TESTED. THIS REPORT SHALL BE <—
24 LIMITED TO THOSE SUBJECT MATTER AREAS OR CONTENT AREAS IN
25 WHICH NO FEWER THAN TEN STUDENTS WERE TESTED.

26 (7) REPORT THE NUMBER OF FACULTY TEACHING A SUBJECT
27 MATTER AREA OR CONTENT AREA, THE NUMBER OF FACULTY THAT HAVE
28 OBTAINED A TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND THE NUMBER OF FACULTY
29 WHO HAVE CLASSROOM TEACHING EXPERIENCE.

30 ~~(7)~~ (8) Such other information as deemed necessary by <—

1 the department.

2 Section 5. Duties of department.

3 (a) Form development.--The department shall prepare a
4 uniform report card form and distribute that form to each
5 Pennsylvania institution of higher education no later than April
6 15 of each academic year. The form shall include a description
7 of each requirement in section 4 (relating to teacher assessment
8 report card) written in plain English.

9 (b) Statewide report.--

10 (1) Upon receipt of the completed report card
11 information from the individual institution of higher
12 education by a date certain established by the department,
13 the department shall compile a Statewide report for the
14 academic year for which data is supplied and the prior two
15 academic years, including a listing of each institution of
16 higher education and the information required under section
17 4.

18 (2) For purposes of the Statewide report, the department
19 shall not be required to compile or distribute data for the
20 prior two academic years until such time as the data becomes
21 available.

22 (3) (i) The department shall make available to each
23 institution of higher education a draft copy of its
24 Statewide report before initiating the final report
25 required by subsection (c).

26 (ii) An institution of higher education shall have
27 20 days from receipt of its draft Statewide report to
28 ~~make any necessary changes and submit such changes to the~~ <—
29 ~~department. Any change made to a draft Statewide report~~
30 ~~by an institution of higher education shall be~~

1 ~~accompanied by documentation proving the need for the~~

2 ~~change.~~ SUBMIT CORRECTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT. CORRECTIONS <—

3 SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.

4 (4) The information received under section 4 shall be
5 deemed to be accurate for any institution of higher education
6 that does not resubmit its draft Statewide report to the
7 department on a timely basis.

8 (c) Release of final report.--No later than January 1
9 following the academic year for which report card data has been
10 furnished by the institutions of higher education, except that
11 for the ~~2005-2006~~ 2006-2007 academic year when the date shall be <—
12 February 1, the department shall furnish each institution of
13 higher education with its completed report card. The report card
14 shall include information as specified in section 4 and the
15 Statewide report as specified in subsection (b).

16 Section 6. Dissemination of report card.

17 (a) Students.--No later than March 1, except for the ~~2005-~~ <—
18 ~~2006~~ 2006-2007 academic year when the date shall be April 1, <—
19 each institution of higher education shall make the applicable
20 report card available to postsecondary students in approved
21 teacher education programs either at the office of the dean or
22 head of the teacher education program of the respective
23 institution of higher education or by posting the report card on
24 the campus Internet website.

25 (b) General public.--The department shall publicize the
26 Statewide results as defined in section 5(c) (relating to duties
27 of department) by posting the report on the department's
28 Internet website no later than March 1, except for the ~~2005-2006~~ <—
29 2006-2007 academic year when the date shall be April 1. <—

30 (c) General Assembly.--The department shall forward a copy

1 of the Statewide results of the report card to the chairperson
2 and minority chairperson of the Education Committee of the
3 Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
4 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

5 Section 7. Cause of action.

6 Nothing in this act shall be construed as establishing cause
7 of action for educational malpractice by students.

8 Section 8. Additional requirements.

9 (a) State Board of Education.--The State Board of Education
10 shall adopt policies, standards, rules and regulations necessary
11 for the proper administration and implementation of this act.

12 (b) Department of Education.--The Department of Education
13 shall provide technical assistance to institutions of higher
14 education in completing forms as required by section 3(a)
15 (relating to duties of institutions of higher education).

16 Section 9. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect July 1, ~~2005~~ 2006, or immediately, <—
18 whichever is later.