

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2361 Session of  
2006

INTRODUCED BY D. EVANS, CALTAGIRONE, CRAHALLA, DERMODY, GRUCELA,  
LaGROTTA, MARKOSEK, McCALL, PARKER, READSHAW, RUBLEY,  
SAMUELSON, SAYLOR, SHAPIRO, TANGRETTI, TIGUE, WALKO AND  
YUDICHAK, JANUARY 23, 2006

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 23, 2006

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Performance Evaluation Commission  
2 and providing for its powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Performance  
7 Evaluation Act.

8 Section 2. Purpose.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) There is the need to continuously evaluate the  
11 performance of the Commonwealth's programs and policies to  
12 assure that tax dollars are spent in the most effective and  
13 efficient manner possible.

14 (2) The citizens of this Commonwealth have the right to  
15 know that State government is meeting their needs in a cost-  
16 effective manner.

17 (3) Agencies of State government must be able to

1 demonstrate that their programs are meeting their goals and  
2 objectives and are having a positive impact on this  
3 Commonwealth and its citizens by becoming more focused,  
4 concentrated and intensive in their performance evaluation  
5 efforts both for the short term and the long term.

6 (4) Given the constrained nature of the fiscal resources  
7 that will be available both now and into the foreseeable  
8 future, only those programs that prove their worth can be  
9 considered for continued funding.

#### 10 Section 3. Definitions.

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

14 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Performance Evaluation  
15 Commission established in section 4.

#### 16 Section 4. Establishing the Pennsylvania Performance Evaluation 17 Commission.

18 The Pennsylvania Performance Evaluation Commission is hereby  
19 established to develop and implement a comprehensive system of  
20 performance evaluation.

#### 21 Section 5. Membership.

22 (a) Members.--The commission shall consist of the following  
23 members:

24 (1) The Secretary of the Budget.

25 (2) The Secretary of Administration.

26 (3) The State Treasurer.

27 (4) The Auditor General.

28 (5) The chairman of the Legislative Budget and Finance  
29 Committee.

30 (6) The chairman and the minority chairman of the

1 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

2 (7) The chairman and the minority chairman of the  
3 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

4 (b) Chairman.--The members of the commission shall elect a  
5 chairman at their first meeting.

6 Section 6. Powers and duties of commission.

7 (a) Meetings.--The commission shall meet as frequently as it  
8 deems appropriate, but at least once during each month. The  
9 Secretary of the Budget shall be responsible for calling the  
10 initial meeting of the commission. The initial organizational  
11 meeting of the commission shall take place within 30 days of the  
12 effective date of this act.

13 (b) Resources.--The commission may utilize the staff and  
14 resources of the General Assembly, any Commonwealth agency, and  
15 any public or private institution which receives Commonwealth  
16 funds. The General Assembly, Commonwealth agencies and public or  
17 private institutions receiving Commonwealth funds shall provide  
18 staff and resources as requested at no cost to the commission.  
19 The commission may use the space, staff and resources of the  
20 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to prepare its final  
21 report.

22 (c) Objectives.--The commission shall evaluate the current  
23 structure and system of performance evaluation in the  
24 Commonwealth and develop and implement a comprehensive and  
25 coordinated system of program evaluation that includes  
26 monitoring, impact assessment, examination of cost effectiveness  
27 and cost-benefit analysis. In so doing, the commission shall  
28 take into consideration the effectiveness of the existing  
29 systems, including:

30 (1) Program evaluations.

- 1           (2)    Preaudits.
- 2           (3)    Program measures.
- 3           (4)    Financial audits.
- 4           (5)    Budget process.
- 5           (6)    Legislative oversight.
- 6           (7)    Performance audits.

7       (d)   Report to General Assembly.--Within 90 days of the  
8 effective date of this act, the commission shall identify those  
9 programs most in need of performance evaluation. Within 360 days  
10 of the effective date of this act, the commission shall submit  
11 to the General Assembly a performance evaluation report for each  
12 of the programs identified above with specific recommendations,  
13 including whether:

- 14           (1)    To continue or discontinue the program.
- 15           (2)    To improve its practices and procedures.
- 16           (3)    To modify specific program strategies and  
17 techniques.

18       (e)   Comprehensive report.--The commission shall issue to the  
19 Governor and the General Assembly a comprehensive report no  
20 later than one year after the effective date of this act  
21 containing its recommendations for:

- 22           (1)    Implementing a systematic means of evaluating  
23 programs in order to make State government in Pennsylvania  
24 more effective and cost efficient.
- 25           (2)    Expanding the use of existing oversight processes  
26 and the role of existing oversight agencies.
- 27           (3)    Encouraging greater participation of legislative  
28 committees in the evaluation process.
- 29           (4)    Ensuring systematic scheduling of program  
30 evaluations.

1           (5) Encouraging greater use of evaluation findings by  
2       policy decision makers.

3       (f) State Employee Cost Reduction Incentive Program.--Within  
4   180 days of the effective date of this act, the commission shall  
5   develop and implement a State Employee Cost Reduction Incentive  
6   Program of meritorious service awards to State employees who  
7   propose procedures or ideas which are adopted and which will  
8   result in eliminating or reducing State expenditures or  
9   improving operations, provided such proposals are placed in  
10  effect. In developing and implementing the program, the  
11  commission shall consider at least all of the following:

12           (1) Elements to be included on a prepared suggestion  
13       form to be completed by State employees.

14           (2) Procedures for reviewing and evaluating completed  
15       suggestion forms.

16           (3) Rewards for adopted suggestions that include cash  
17       awards and/or paid annual leave.

18   Section 7. Effective date.

19       This act shall take effect immediately.