

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE BILL

No. 2427 Session of  
2008

INTRODUCED BY GRUCELA, SURRA, BLACKWELL, CLYMER, DALLY, GOODMAN,  
HARKINS, M. O'BRIEN, PAYNE, SOLOBAY, TANGRETTI, McCALL,  
KOTIK, READSHAW, BRENNAN, STERN, DALEY, BELFANTI, WAGNER,  
FRANKEL, HERSHEY, HALUSKA, SAYLOR, PALLONE, SCAVELLO,  
CALTAGIRONE, WOJNAROSKI, HUTCHINSON, McILHATTAN, PASHINSKI,  
KULA, RUBLEY, SIPTROTH, J. WHITE AND HARHAI, APRIL 3, 2008

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 3, 2008

## 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," further providing for teachers'  
6 certificates issued by other states and for evaluation of  
7 applications for certification of teachers.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1206 of the act of March 10, 1949  
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
12 amended to read:

13 Section 1206. Certificates Issued by Other States.--The  
14 [Superintendent of Public Instruction may] Department of  
15 Education shall validate in this Commonwealth teachers'  
16 certificates issued by other states, or by the State normal  
17 schools or colleges of other states, whose requirements are  
18 equivalent to those of this Commonwealth. Certified teachers

1 from other states applying for teacher certification in  
2 Pennsylvania are exempt from any assessment under 22 Pa. Code  
3 49.18 (relating to assessment). Such validation of certificates  
4 may be revoked by the [Superintendent of Public Instruction]  
5 Department of Education at any time.

6 Section 2. Section 1216 of the act, added July 13, 2005  
7 (P.L.226, No.46), is amended to read:

8 Section 1216. Evaluation of Applications for  
9 Certification.--(a) All applications for certification shall be  
10 evaluated in their entirety. The results of assessments taken by  
11 an individual in pursuit of certification under 22 Pa. Code  
12 49.18 (relating to assessment) shall not expire, and the  
13 Department of Education shall consider them to be valid  
14 indefinitely. The Department of Education shall notify the  
15 applicant if the application is incomplete and include a listing  
16 of all materials or information needed to complete the  
17 application. The applicant's pending application shall remain  
18 open for one year following the date of such notification. No  
19 letter of denial of certification shall be issued unless all  
20 deficiencies in the application are stated in the letter of  
21 denial.

22 (b) The grade point average used by the department in  
23 evaluating the grade point average requirements for  
24 certification pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 354.24 (relating to  
25 academic performance) shall be as follows:

26 (1) For applicants whose initial preparation culminated in a  
27 bachelor's degree or higher prior to October 7, 2000, the grade  
28 point average in effect on the date of application for  
29 certification.

30 (2) For applicants whose initial preparation culminates in a

1 bachelor's degree or higher on or after October 7, 2000, the  
2 grade point average in effect on the date of graduation.

3 (3) Beginning with students who matriculate in fall 2008, an  
4 applicant for a Pennsylvania teaching certificate who maintains  
5 a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.25 in all required  
6 core courses and required elective courses in the bachelor of  
7 arts or bachelor of science major academic area the candidate  
8 intends to teach or in the noninstructional certificate category  
9 the candidate plans to serve shall be exempt from any assessment  
10 under 22 Pa. Code 49.18.

11 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.