

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 307 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY PICCOLA, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

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," in terms and courses of study,
 6 providing for PSSA test requirements; and in high schools,
 7 further providing for academic degrees.

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

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

13 Section 1531.1. PSSA Test Requirement.--(a) The State Board
 14 of Education shall develop regulations which provide that no
 15 student is eligible for promotion to the next grade level if the
 16 student scores lower than the basic level on the PSSA test in
 17 each subject area.

18 (b) The regulations shall provide for exemptions to the
 19 promotion eligibility requirement for students with disabilities
 20 or limited English proficiency and other students as may be
 21 deemed necessary by the State Board of Education.

1 (c) The State Board of Education shall promulgate
2 regulations under subsection (a) within two years of the
3 effective date of this section. The regulations shall provide
4 for a gradual implementation of the promotion eligibility
5 requirement with full implementation in phases over a period of
6 time not to exceed three years from the effective date of the
7 regulations.

8 Section 2. Section 1611 of the act is amended by adding a
9 subsection to read:

10 Section 1611. Academic Degrees.--* * *

11 (a.1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article XXVI-B, or
12 any other provision of law, any Statewide requirements for high
13 school graduation from a public school entity in this
14 Commonwealth, beyond any Statewide requirements in effect as of
15 the effective date of this subsection, shall be established only
16 by an act of the General Assembly. The Department of Education
17 may not expend any funds to develop such Statewide requirements
18 until an act of the General Assembly specifically authorizes the
19 expenditure.

20 * * *

21 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.