
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 165 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY HARHAI, MCGEEHAN, FABRIZIO, READSHAW, W. KELLER,
D. COSTA, KORTZ, KULA, WHITE, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, FREEMAN
AND MURT, JANUARY 22, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 22, 2013

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 school police and
6 security officer training.

7 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

8 (1) School security officers and security guards
9 employed by school districts across this Commonwealth are
10 entrusted with securing our school buildings, property and
11 the safety of our students, staff, administration and all
12 related support staff employed in the educational setting.
13 These security officers and guards are to ensure that the
14 youth of this Commonwealth have a safe learning environment.

15 (2) The purpose of this act is to provide for the
16 education, training and certification of school security
17 personnel as a basis of their employment and to prescribe a
18 course of instruction to obtain certification.

19 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1 hereby enacts as follows:

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

5 Section 778.1. Training Requirements for School Security
6 Officers.--(a) Education and training requirements for security
7 officers are as follows:

8 (1) A security officer hired by a school district on or
9 after the effective date of this section must complete a
10 mandated training course within one year of being hired.

11 (2) A security officer hired by a school district prior to
12 the effective date of this section shall have a reasonable
13 amount of time, as determined by the board of directors of the
14 school district, to either give cause to the board's
15 satisfaction as to why the training should be waived or to
16 complete the mandated training course.

17 (3) An approved training course must include the following
18 topics:

19 (i) Professionalism.

20 (ii) Authority as a security officer.

21 (iii) Report writing.

22 (iv) Self-defense and dealing with unruly students and
23 adults.

24 (v) Search and seizure on school property.

25 (vi) Testifying in court.

26 (vii) Working with State and local police agencies.

27 (viii) Lockdown and crisis procedures.

28 (ix) Interviewing witnesses.

29 (x) Preserving evidence.

30 (xi) The relevant provisions of this act.

1 (xii) Basic computer skills.

2 (xiii) Custody issues specific to schools.

3 (xiv) Crowd control.

4 (xv) Special events security.

5 (xvi) Drug identification.

6 (xvii) Truancy and related issues.

7 (4) In addition, a security officer must be certified in
8 basic first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and
9 automated external defibrillator (AED) usage.

10 (5) An approved training course must include at least sixty
11 (60) hours of instruction.

12 (6) Instructors for the required course material must be
13 accredited through one of the following:

14 (i) The department.

15 (ii) The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

16 (iii) The provisions of 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D (relating
17 to municipal police education and training).

18 (iv) The Pennsylvania State Police.

19 (7) Instructors for any additional course material must be
20 approved by a board of directors of a school district.

21 (b) The board of directors of a school district shall have
22 the duty to:

23 (1) Adopt curriculum that is in compliance with this
24 section.

25 (2) Pay costs of certification and recertification, but not
26 for qualification for training.

27 (3) Set the date and location of the certification and
28 recertification courses.

29 (4) Maintain and file with the department a list of all
30 certified security officers in the school district.

1 (c) The department shall have the duty to approve all school
2 board-adopted policies and the authority to promulgate rules and
3 regulations consistent with this section and to issue
4 certification or recertification upon successful completion of
5 the mandated and approved training course.

6 (d) A person who is certified under 53 Pa.C.S. § 2167
7 (relating to police training), 2168 (relating to automatic
8 certification) or 2169 (relating to in-service training by
9 existing personnel) shall be automatically certified by the
10 board of directors of a school district.

11 (e) To qualify for admission into a training course, the
12 individual must meet all the following:

13 (1) Be eighteen (18) years of age or older.

14 (2) Have a physician attest to the individual's physical
15 ability to perform the duties of a security officer.

16 (3) Have on file with both the board of directors of a
17 school district and the department the following:

18 (i) A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) clearance.

19 (ii) A completed background check under section 111.

20 (iii) Clearance under 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 Subch. C.2 (relating
21 to background checks for employment in schools).

22 (f) The department shall issue a certification to the
23 individual upon successful completion of the required training
24 course. Certification may be renewed annually upon successful
25 completion of twenty (20) hours of continuing education
26 consisting of updates to the basic curriculum or specialized
27 areas that a board of directors of a school district deems
28 necessary.

29 (g) Nothing in this section shall require or prohibit a
30 centralized training or recertification course.

1 (h) As used in this section:
2 "Department." The Department of Education of the
3 Commonwealth.
4 "Security officer." A person employed by a school district
5 for the purpose of maintaining the security of the school. The
6 term shall include school police officers hired under section
7 778.
8 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.