

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 543 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, AUMENT, COX, CUTLER, DENLINGER,
EMRICK, FARRY, FLECK, GRELL, C. HARRIS, KAUFFMAN, M. K.
KELLER, KNOWLES, KRIEGER, LAWRENCE, MAJOR, METCALFE, MILLER,
MOUL, PEIFER, PICKETT, STERN AND SWANGER, FEBRUARY 6, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 6, 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," in district and assistant
6 superintendents, further providing for eligibility.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1003 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
11 amended June 30, 2012 (P.L.684, No.82), is amended to read:

12 Section 1003. Eligibility.--[(a) Except as otherwise
13 provided in subsections (b) and (b.1), no] No person shall
14 receive a letter of eligibility or be elected or appointed as a
15 district superintendent or assistant district superintendent[,
16 unless--

17 (1) He holds a diploma from a college or other institution
18 approved by the Department of Education;

19 (2) He has had six (6) years' successful teaching

1 experience, not less than three of which shall have been in a
2 supervisory or administrative capacity;

3 (3) He has completed in a college or university a graduate
4 program in education approved by the Department of Education
5 that includes the Pennsylvania school leadership standards under
6 section 1217. Completion of the program shall not be subject to
7 waiver under section 1714-B unless the candidate provides to the
8 Secretary of Education evidence that the candidate has
9 successfully completed an equivalent leadership development
10 program that addresses the school leadership standards under
11 section 1217.

12 (4) Provided that in school districts of the first class,
13 five (5) years of administrative experience at the level of
14 assistant, associate or deputy superintendent, may be
15 substituted for prescribed graduate administrative courses, and
16 which shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of Education
17 to review these equivalences to conform with State board
18 regulations.

19 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (a), a
20 person shall be eligible for election or appointment as a
21 district superintendent or assistant district superintendent if
22 he holds a graduate degree from an accredited higher education
23 institution in business, finance or management and has at least
24 four (4) years of relevant experience in business, finance or
25 management.

26 (b.1) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (a), a
27 person shall be eligible for election or appointment as a
28 district superintendent or assistant district superintendent if
29 he holds a juris doctorate degree from an accredited law school
30 and has at least four (4) years of relevant experience in law.

1 This subsection shall expire three (3) years from the effective
2 date of this subsection. A person who is issued a commission by
3 the department based on satisfaction of the requirements of this
4 subsection may retain his commission after the expiration of
5 this subsection.

6 (b.2) The department shall, upon request in a form and
7 manner as prescribed by the department and made available on the
8 department's publicly accessible Internet website, confirm that
9 an individual satisfies the requirements of subsection (b) or
10 (b.1) and that the individual is eligible for election or
11 appointment as a district superintendent or assistant district
12 superintendent. Upon a school district's hiring of an individual
13 who satisfies the requirements of subsection (b) or (b.1), the
14 department shall issue the individual a commission.

15 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 1205.1(f),
16 1205.2(n.1) and 1205.5(h), a person elected or appointed as a
17 district superintendent or assistant district superintendent for
18 the first time in this Commonwealth under subsection (b) or
19 (b.1) shall successfully complete a leadership development
20 program that meets the Pennsylvania school leadership standards
21 under section 1217.] unless the person receives a majority vote
22 of the board of school directors as required under section 508.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.