

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2074 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, MILLARD, MACKENZIE, V. BROWN, HELM, SAMUELSON, HARHAI, THOMAS, COHEN, BISHOP, GROVE, SWANGER, FRANKEL, GIBBONS, MURT, CLYMER, SAINATO, DAVIDSON AND MILNE, MARCH 10, 2014

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 1, 2014

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Governor's Schools of Excellence; ~~and making an~~ <--  
2 ~~appropriation.~~

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 Governor's  
7 Schools of Excellence Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative intent.

9 It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish the  
10 permanent operation of the Governor's Schools of Excellence in  
11 order to afford students of all socioeconomic backgrounds the  
12 opportunity to pursue in-depth and advanced studies in fields  
13 ~~that may include, but are not limited to, agricultural sciences,~~ <--  
14 ~~engineering and technology or sciences~~ DETERMINED BY THE <--  
15 DEPARTMENT.

16 Section 3. Definitions.

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

4 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
5 Commonwealth.

6 "Governor's Schools of Excellence." Schools established by  
7 the department under section 5.

8 "Host site." The college or university where a Governor's  
9 School of Excellence is located.

10 "Program." The Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.  
11 Section 4. Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.

12 The Governor's Schools of Excellence Program is hereby  
13 established within the department.

14 Section 5. Duties of department.

15 (a) Disciplines.--The department shall establish Governor's  
16 Schools of Excellence at host sites throughout this Commonwealth  
17 in disciplines ~~that may include any of the following:~~ <--

18 ~~(1) Agricultural sciences.~~

19 ~~(2) Engineering and technology.~~

20 ~~(3) Sciences.~~

21 ~~(4) Other disciplines~~ determined by the department.

22 (b) Locations.--Governor's Schools of Excellence may be  
23 sponsored by and located at Pennsylvania institutions of higher  
24 education designated by the department.

25 (c) Administration.--In administering the program, the  
26 department shall do all of the following:

27 (1) Make student applications available to every public  
28 and nonpublic school in this Commonwealth and include the  
29 application on the department's publicly accessible Internet  
30 website.

1 (2) Ensure that each Governor's School of Excellence is  
2 utilizing a process whereby students are selected on the  
3 basis of their performance and achievement through a  
4 competitive selection process and seek to ensure an  
5 economically, socially and geographically diverse student  
6 population.

7 (3) Ensure the program complies with subsection (e),  
8 enabling all qualified students the opportunity to enroll in  
9 the program regardless of their economic circumstances.

10 (d) Scheduling.--Governor's Schools of Excellence shall be  
11 held, to the extent possible, during the summer months between  
12 the end and the beginning of the school year. The department may  
13 grant permission for a school to be held at other times during  
14 the school year when circumstances and programming options  
15 warrant such a change.

16 (e) Costs.--Students attending a Governor's School of  
17 Excellence shall not be required to pay any tuition or fees to  
18 attend and participate in a Governor's School of Excellence.  
19 Students are responsible for their own costs relating to  
20 transportation to and from the program.

21 ~~Section 6. Appropriation.~~

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22 ~~For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the General Assembly shall~~  
23 ~~appropriate funding in the amount of \$350,000 to the department~~  
24 ~~for the purpose of the Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.~~

25 Section 7 6. Effective date.

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26 This act shall take effect immediately.