

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 108 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, V. BROWN, DAY, FLECK, GROVE, KORTZ,
MAHER, MARSICO, MILNE, PEIFER, RAPP, ROEBUCK, SCAVELLO,
GIBBONS AND CLYMER, FEBRUARY 25, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 25, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study
2 school districts' establishment and implementation of
3 character education programs pursuant to section 1502-E of
4 the act of March 19, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the
5 Public School Code of 1949, and the Department of Education's
6 fulfillment of its duties and powers pursuant to section
7 1503-E of the act and make recommendations with respect to
8 character education for elementary and secondary students in
9 this Commonwealth.

10 WHEREAS, It is important that children in this Commonwealth
11 learn to be ethical, responsible and caring citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, Section 1502-E of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
13 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added July 4,
14 2004 (P.L.536, No.70), permits the board of school directors of
15 a school district to establish and implement a character
16 education program in its schools, which may include and teach
17 the following basic civil values and character traits:

18 (1) trustworthiness, including honesty, integrity,
19 reliability and loyalty;

20 (2) respect, including regard for others, tolerance and
21 courtesy;

1 (3) responsibility, including hard work, economic self-
2 reliance, accountability, diligence, perseverance and self-
3 control;

4 (4) fairness, including justice, consequences of bad
5 behavior, principles of nondiscrimination and freedom from
6 prejudice;

7 (5) caring, including kindness, empathy, compassion,
8 consideration, generosity and charity; and

9 (6) citizenship, including love of country, concern for
10 the common good, respect for authority and the law and
11 community mindedness;

12 and

13 WHEREAS, Section 1503-E of the act, added July 4, 2004
14 (P.L.536, No.70), assigns certain powers and duties to the
15 Department of Education with respect to character education,
16 including establishing criteria and guidelines and providing
17 school districts with resources and technical assistance with
18 respect to the establishment and implementation of character
19 education programs; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
21 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of
22 the status of character education in the public schools of this
23 Commonwealth; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
25 seek input from the Department of Education and the school
26 districts of this Commonwealth in conducting its study; and be
27 it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
29 include the following in its study:

30 (1) The number of school districts in this Commonwealth

1 that offer a character education program.

2 (2) The nature of the character education programs that
3 are offered by school districts in this Commonwealth.

4 (3) The actions the Department of Education has taken to
5 comply with section 1503-E of the act, including a review of
6 the criteria and guidelines established by the Department of
7 Education and the resources and technical assistance the
8 Department of Education provides to school districts with
9 respect to the establishment and implementation of character
10 education programs.

11 (4) Recommendations with respect to character education
12 for elementary and secondary public school students in this
13 Commonwealth, including recommended legislation;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
16 report its findings and recommendations to the House of
17 Representatives no later than December 31, 2013.