

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1403 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BLAKE, TEPLITZ, ARGALL, COSTA, GREENLEAF, BOSCOLA,
VULAKOVICH, RESCHENTHALER, FONTANA, SCHWANK, BROWNE, RAFFERTY
AND WARD, NOVEMBER 3, 2016

REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, NOVEMBER 3, 2016

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council; and
2 providing for its powers and duties.

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 Pennsylvania
7 Career Readiness Council Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Charter School." A charter school, regional charter school
13 or cyber charter school established under Article XVII-A of the
14 Public School Code of 1949.

15 "Chief school administrator." The superintendent or chief
16 executive officer of a school district, director of an area
17 vocational-technical school, executive director of an

intermediate unit or chief executive officer of a charter school, regional charter school or cyber charter school.

"Community college." An institution created pursuant to either of the following:

(1) Article XIX-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

(2) The act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484), known as the Community College Act of 1963.

"Council." The Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council established under this act.

"High priority occupation." A job category, within selected industry clusters, that is identified by the Department of Labor and Industry as:

(1) being in demand by employers;

(2) having higher skill needs; and

(3) likely to provide family-sustaining wages.

"Independent institution of higher education." The term as defined under section 2001-C of the Public School Code of 1949.

"Intermediate Unit." A geographic unit as described under Article IX-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

"Labor organization." As follows:

(1) The term as defined under section 3(f) of the act of June 1, 1937 (P.L.1168, No.294), known as the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act.

(2) An "employe organization," as defined under section 301(3) of the act of July 23, 1970 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the Public Employe Relations Act.

"Local workforce investment board." The term as defined under section 103 of the Workforce Development Act.

"Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board." The Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board established under section 301 of the

1 Workforce Development Act.

2 "Public School Code of 1949." The act of March 10, 1949
3 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.

4 "Rural public school district." A public school district
5 that has a population of less than 300 people per square mile.
6 The term also includes an intermediate unit or area vocational-
7 technical school if the composite data for all participating
8 school districts meet the criteria specified under this
9 definition.

10 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
11 vocational-technical school or charter school.

12 "State-related institution." The Pennsylvania State
13 University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University,
14 Lincoln University and their branch campuses.

15 "State System of Higher Education." The State System of
16 Higher Education established under Article XX-A of the Public
17 School Code of 1949.

18 "Suburban public school district." A public school district
19 that has a population of at least 300 people per square mile and
20 not more than 850 people per square mile. The term also includes
21 an intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school if the
22 composite data for all participating school districts meet the
23 criteria specified under this definition.

24 "Urban public school district." A public school district
25 that has a population of more than 850 people per square mile.
26 The term also includes an intermediate unit or area vocational-
27 technical school if the composite data for all participating
28 school districts meet the criteria specified under this
29 definition.

30 "Workforce Development Act." The act of December 18, 2001

(P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act.

Section 3. Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council.

(a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council is established.

(b) Membership.--The Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council shall be comprised of the following members:

(1) The Governor.

(2) The Secretary of Labor and Industry.

(3) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development.

(4) The Secretary of Education.

(5) The Secretary of Human Services.

(6) Two members of the Senate as follows:

(i) one member appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate; and

(ii) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(7) Two members of the House of Representatives as follows:

(i) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(8) The following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) One member who shall be the Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education.

(ii) One member who shall be a president of a community college.

(iii) One member who shall be a president of a State-related institution.

(iv) One member who shall be a president of an

1 independent institution of higher education.

2 (v) Three members who shall be chief school
3 administrators as follows:

4 (A) one member who is a representative of an
5 urban school district;

6 (B) one member who is a representative of a
7 suburban school district; and

8 (C) one member who is a representative of a
9 rural school district.

10 (vi) One member who shall be the director of an area
11 vocational-technical school or career and technical
12 center.

13 (vii) One member who shall be an executive director
14 of an intermediate unit.

15 (viii) One member who shall be a representative of a
16 labor organization.

17 (ix) One member who shall be an executive director
18 of a local workforce investment board.

19 (x) Ten members who shall be chief executives of
20 businesses that represent different high-priority
21 occupation areas and are geographically dispersed
22 throughout this Commonwealth.

23 (c) Designees.--Governmental members may appoint a designee
24 to attend and vote at meetings of the council. Each governmental
25 member who appoints a designee shall do so by sending a letter
26 to the chairperson stating the name of the designee.

27 (d) Terms.--The following shall apply:

28 (1) The terms of the members who serve by virtue of the
29 public office they hold shall be concurrent with their
30 service in the office from which they derive their

1 membership.

2 (2) The initial terms of members appointed under
3 subsection (b) (8) shall be staggered as follows:

4 (i) Seven members shall serve a term of one year.

5 (ii) Seven members shall serve a term of two years.

6 (iii) Seven members shall serve a term of three
7 years.

8 (3) The subsequent terms of members appointed under
9 subsection (b) (8) shall be three years.

10 (e) Vacancies.--If a vacancy on the council occurs, the
11 appointing authority shall appoint an individual to fill the
12 vacancy in accordance with the criteria under subsection (b).

13 (f) Executive director.--The following shall apply:

14 (1) The Governor shall nominate an individual as
15 executive director to the council. The council shall ratify
16 the nomination for executive director with a vote of a simple
17 majority of the members of the council.

18 (2) The executive director may hire additional staff as
19 necessary and as funding allows.

20 (g) Council leadership.--The following shall apply:

21 (1) The Governor shall serve as the chairperson of the
22 council.

23 (2) The Governor shall select an appointed business
24 chief executive to serve as vice-chairperson of the council
25 in accordance with subsection (b).

26 (h) Meetings.--The following shall apply:

27 (1) The council shall meet at the call of the
28 chairperson, but no less than four times a year.

29 (2) The chairperson, in consultation with the vice-
30 chairperson, shall establish the agenda for each meeting of

1 the council.

2 (i) Quorum and official action.--The following shall apply:

3 (1) A majority of voting members of the council shall
4 constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

5 (2) The affirmative votes of a majority of voting
6 members of the council are necessary for the council to take
7 official action.

8 (j) Reimbursement.--The members of the council may not
9 receive a salary or per diem allowance for serving as members of
10 the council, but shall be reimbursed for the actual and
11 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the members'
12 duties.

13 (k) Funding.--The council may accept appropriations from the
14 General Assembly, grants from the Federal Government, grants
15 from the Commonwealth, money from private entities or any
16 combination thereof.

17 (l) Conflict of interest.--A member of the council may not
18 vote on a matter under consideration by the council:

19 (1) regarding the provision of services by the member or
20 by an entity that the member represents; or

21 (2) which would provide direct financial benefit to the
22 member or the immediate family of the member.

23 Section 4. Duties of the council.

24 (a) Duties.--The council shall:

25 (1) Within 180 days of the effective date of this
26 section, develop a vision and mission statement that makes
27 clear the council's purpose as well as the respective roles
28 and responsibilities of council members.

29 (2) Within one year of the effective date of this
30 section, develop a plan in consultation with the Pennsylvania

1 Workforce Investment Board to improve this Commonwealth's
2 career readiness preparation system. The plan developed under
3 this paragraph shall include, but not be limited to:

4 (i) Proposed changes to:

5 (A) improve the transition from K-12 education
6 and postsecondary education to the work force; and

7 (B) ensure that programs are aligned with
8 current or anticipated business and industry needs.

9 (ii) Proposed changes, including recommended
10 legislation and rules, to increase coordination, data
11 sharing and communication among State, local and private
12 agencies, groups and associations that are involved in
13 education, job skills development and career training.

14 (iii) Proposed changes to make this Commonwealth a
15 leader in employment opportunities related to the fields
16 of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

17 (3) Identify appropriate information and request
18 appropriate data disaggregated by subgroups from council
19 members in order to make recommendations for system
20 improvement and set goals regarding, at minimum, the
21 following areas:

22 (i) Availability of and access to high-quality
23 career pathways in high-skill, high-demand industry
24 occupations spanning secondary and postsecondary
25 education.

26 (ii) Availability of and access to high-quality
27 work-based learning and preapprenticeship/apprenticeship
28 opportunities.

29 (iii) Availability of and access to postsecondary
30 credit and industry-recognized credentials in high-skill,

1 high-demand occupations, especially those related to the
2 fields of science, technology, engineering and
3 mathematics.

4 (4) Develop a sustainable process for identifying and
5 addressing equity gaps in the career preparation delivery
6 system.

7 (5) Develop a sustainable process for identifying
8 opportunities to align this Commonwealth's education and
9 training pipeline in response to labor market needs,
10 including, but not limited to:

11 (i) Cataloging all funding sources, including
12 Federal, State and private, that can be utilized for
13 education, career training and work force preparation.

14 (ii) Reviewing funding streams for overlaps and gaps
15 with a special focus on identifying areas with
16 inequitable student access.

17 (iii) Developing and implementing plans to improve
18 alignment and more effectively prepare all secondary
19 students for postsecondary success in high-skill, high-
20 demand occupations.

21 (iv) Identifying strategies for leveraging and
22 aligning Federal, State and private funding sources.

23 (6) Create a public repository that includes, but is not
24 limited to, national and State model partnerships between
25 industry and education, career pathway programs in this
26 Commonwealth and other national and state best practices in
27 career readiness preparation.

28 (7) Coordinate Statewide and regional conventions to:

29 (i) highlight national and state best practices;

30 (ii) connect the work within this Commonwealth; and

1 (iii) benchmark the work toward national standards.

2 (8) Develop and maintain a marketing, communications and
3 stakeholder engagement strategy, with a website and other
4 public materials, to be maintained by the executive director
5 and council staff.

6 (9) Obtain input from the following:

7 (i) Employers and employer organizations located in
8 this Commonwealth.

9 (ii) State System of Higher Education institutions,
10 State-related institutions, community colleges and
11 independent institutions of higher education.

12 (iii) Regional and local economic development
13 organizations.

14 (iv) Labor organizations located in this
15 Commonwealth.

16 (v) Individuals with expertise in career readiness
17 preparation activities.

18 (vi) Local workforce investment boards.

19 (vii) School entities.

20 (viii) Military and veterans organizations.

21 (ix) Organizations representing women, African-
22 Americans, Latinos and other significant minority
23 populations, and having an interest in issues of
24 particular concern to these populations.

25 (x) Any other individual or organization that a
26 majority of the voting members of the council determines
27 has information that is important for the council to
28 consider.

29 (b) Report.--The council shall submit an annual report to
30 the General Assembly, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief

1 Clerk of the House of Representatives that details the progress
2 made by the council according to the plan referenced under
3 subsection (a)(2), with accompanying recommendations for further
4 action to be taken.

5 Section 5. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 60 days.