

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 399 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY EMRICK, DUNBAR, CUTLER, O'NEILL, IRVIN, PHILLIPS-HILL, LAWRENCE, ROEBUCK, ZIMMERMAN AND WARD, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

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 certification of teachers, further  
 6 providing for evaluation of applications for certification.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1216 of the act of March 10, 1949  
 10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
 11 amended to read:

12 Section 1216. Evaluation of Applications for  
 13 Certification.--(a) All applications for certification shall be  
 14 evaluated in their entirety. The Department of Education shall  
 15 notify the applicant if the application is incomplete and  
 16 include a listing of all materials or information needed to  
 17 complete the application. The applicant's pending application  
 18 shall remain open for one year following the date of such  
 19 notification. No letter of denial of certification shall be  
 20 issued unless all deficiencies in the application are stated in

1 the letter of denial.

2 (b) The grade point average used by the department in  
3 evaluating the grade point average requirements for  
4 certification pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 354.24 (relating to  
5 academic performance) shall be as follows:

6 (1) For applicants whose initial preparation culminated in a  
7 bachelor's degree or higher prior to October 7, 2000, the grade  
8 point average in effect on the date of application for  
9 certification.

10 (2) For applicants whose initial preparation culminates in a  
11 bachelor's degree or higher on or after October 7, 2000, the  
12 grade point average in effect on the date of graduation.

13 (c) A teacher preparation program approved by the Department  
14 of Education shall recommend applicants for certification who  
15 meet either of the standards for grade point average set forth  
16 in 22 Pa. Code § 354.33(5) or (6) (relating to professional  
17 competency).

18 (d) (1) A teacher preparation program approved by the  
19 Department of Education shall not require a student enrolled in  
20 the program to obtain a passing score on an assessment  
21 administered pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 49.18 (relating to  
22 assessment) as a condition of program completion or graduation  
23 or include the student's score on the assessment as a component  
24 of a student's grade in any course, provided that the  
25 observational assessment of professional knowledge and practice  
26 may be included as a component of a student's student teaching  
27 grade.

28 (2) Subject to section 1207.3(a), a teacher preparation  
29 program approved by the Department of Education shall not  
30 include a student's score on the assessment of basic skills

1 administered pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 49.18 as a component of a  
2 student's grade in any course.

3 (3) For purposes of this paragraph:

4 (i) "Assessment" shall include the assessment of general  
5 knowledge, the assessment of professional knowledge and practice  
6 or the assessment of subject matter as such terms are defined in  
7 22 Pa. Code § 49.1 (relating to definitions).

8 (ii) "Assessment of basic skills" shall have the meaning  
9 given in 22 Pa. Code § 49.1.

10 (iii) "Assessment of professional knowledge and practice"  
11 shall have the meaning given in 22 Pa. Code § 49.1.

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