

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1912 Session of  
2017

INTRODUCED BY CHARLTON, SCHLOSSBERG, STEPHENS, RABB, WARREN,  
DAVIS, WATSON, BRADFORD, M. QUINN, FREEMAN AND WHEELAND,  
NOVEMBER 13, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 13, 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 preliminary provisions, providing  
6 for study of secondary school start times.

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

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

12 Section 113.1. Study of Secondary School Start Times.--(a)  
13 The Department of Education shall conduct a study of issues,  
14 benefits and options related to instituting a later start time  
15 to the school day in secondary schools. The study shall:

16 (1) consider the recent recommendations of the American  
17 Academy of Pediatrics on the establishment of later school start  
18 times;

19 (2) include an assessment of the health, academic and safety

1 benefits associated with establishing later start times for  
2 secondary schools;

3 (3) include an assessment of the effects of blue light from  
4 electronics on sleep and how later school start times for  
5 secondary schools may impact those effects;

6 (4) evaluate any potential negative impacts on school  
7 districts and families that may be associated with a later  
8 school start time and consider strategies for addressing  
9 potential problems;

10 (5) review all available literature and data on the  
11 experiences of school districts in other states that have  
12 instituted later school start times; and

13 (6) include a recommendation relating to the advisability of  
14 establishing a pilot program to test later school start times in  
15 select secondary schools in this Commonwealth that are  
16 interested in participating in the program.

17 (b) The Department of Education shall prepare a report that  
18 includes its findings and recommendations from the study and  
19 shall provide the report to the chairman and minority chairman  
20 of the Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and  
21 minority chairman of the Education Committee of the House of  
22 Representatives no later than six months after the effective  
23 date of this section.

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