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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1450 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY McCARTER, SCHLOSSBERG, RABB, HILL-EVANS, T. DAVIS,  
ULLMAN, STURLA, DeLUCA AND FREEMAN, MAY 13, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 13, 2019

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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 charter schools, establishing the  
6 Cyber Charter School Funding Advisory Commission.

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 1704-A. Cyber Charter School Funding Advisory  
13 Commission.--(a) The Cyber Charter School Funding Advisory  
14 Commission is established.

15 (b) The commission shall examine all current laws,  
16 regulations and executive policy statements which determine  
17 funding for cyber charter schools in this Commonwealth.

18 (c) The commission shall consist of the following:

19 (1) The secretary or a designee.

20 (2) One member appointed by the President pro tempore of the

1 Senate.

2 (3) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
3 Senate.

4 (4) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
5 Representatives.

6 (5) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House  
7 of Representatives.

8 (6) The chairman and minority chairman of the Appropriations  
9 Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman  
10 of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

11 (7) The chairman and minority chairman of the Education  
12 Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman  
13 of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

14 (d) The commission shall hold its organizational meeting no  
15 later than sixty (60) days following the effective date of this  
16 section. All members shall be appointed within thirty (30) days  
17 of the effective date of this section. Any vacancy on the  
18 commission shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

19 (e) The commission shall elect two commission chairmen from  
20 the members appointed under subsection (c), one member appointed  
21 by the Senate and one member appointed by the House of  
22 Representatives.

23 (f) The commission shall hold meetings at the call of the  
24 chairmen. The commission shall hold at least six (6) public  
25 hearings on the matters to be considered by the commission. All  
26 meetings and public hearings of the commission shall be deemed  
27 public meetings for the purpose of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to  
28 open meetings). Seven (7) members of the commission shall  
29 constitute a quorum at any meeting.

30 (g) The commission members shall receive no compensation for

1 their services but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel  
2 and other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the  
3 performance of their duties as members.

4 (h) The commission shall have the following powers and  
5 duties:

6 (1) To meet with current cyber charter school operators and  
7 personnel, school district personnel and other representatives  
8 of public education.

9 (2) To review cyber charter school financing laws in  
10 operation throughout the United States.

11 (3) To assess the actual cost of educating a child in a  
12 cyber charter school and a school district or intermediate unit  
13 utilizing cyber classes.

14 (4) To evaluate and make recommendations on the following:

15 (i) The process by which cyber charter schools are funded.

16 (ii) Appropriate funding for cyber charter school  
17 operations.

18 (iii) Appropriate funding for cyber charter school  
19 facilities and management.

20 (iv) Other funding issues raised in the course of public  
21 hearings.

22 (v) Appropriate funding for cyber charter school special  
23 education programs.

24 (i) The General Assembly shall provide administrative  
25 support, meeting space and any other assistance required by the  
26 commission to carry out its duties under this section. Whenever  
27 possible, the commission shall utilize the services and  
28 expertise of existing personnel and staff of State government.

29 (j) The commission shall, no later than twelve (12) months  
30 from the effective date of this section, issue a report of its

1 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President pro  
2 tempore of the Senate, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the  
3 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the House of  
5 Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of  
6 Representatives. The findings and recommendations of the  
7 commission shall be accompanied with drafts of legislation as  
8 the commission deems necessary for the information of and  
9 consideration by the General Assembly.

10 (k) As used in this section, the term "commission" means the  
11 Cyber Charter School Funding Advisory Commission established  
12 under subsection (a).

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.