

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 59 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY A. WILLIAMS AND GORDNER, JANUARY 11, 2019

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 11, 2019

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 terms and courses of study,  
 6 further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code  
 7 and for economic education and personal financial literacy  
 8 programs, providing for personal finance instruction and for  
 9 capstone course in personal finance as graduation  
 10 requirement; establishing the Personal Finance Education  
 11 Fund; and making an appropriation.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Sections 1511 and 1551 of the act of March 10,  
 15 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
 16 are amended to read:

17 Section 1511. Subjects of Instruction; Flag Code.--In every  
 18 elementary public and private school, established and maintained  
 19 in this Commonwealth, the following subjects shall be taught, in  
 20 the English language and from English texts: English, including  
 21 spelling, reading and writing, arithmetic, geography, the  
 22 history of the United States and of Pennsylvania, civics,  
 23 including loyalty to the State and National Government, personal

1 finance, safety education, and the humane treatment of birds and  
2 animals, health, including physical education, and physiology,  
3 music and art. Other subjects shall be taught in the public  
4 elementary schools and also in the public high schools as may be  
5 prescribed by the standards of the State Board of Education. All  
6 such subjects, except foreign languages, shall be taught in the  
7 English language and from English texts: Provided, however,  
8 That, at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public  
9 Instruction, the teaching of subjects in a language other than  
10 English may be permitted as part of a sequence in foreign  
11 language study or as part of a bilingual education program if  
12 the teaching personnel are properly certified in the subject  
13 fields. Each school district shall provide and distribute to  
14 each pupil, enrolled in the eighth grade of the public schools,  
15 one illustrated copy of the National Flag Code, and shall, from  
16 time to time, make available such copies as are necessary for  
17 replacements from year to year. It shall be the duty of each  
18 teacher in the public schools to make such use of the code as  
19 may, from time to time, seem proper.

20 Section 1551. [Economic Education and Personal Financial  
21 Literacy] Personal Finance Education Programs.--(a) The  
22 department shall have the power and its duty shall be to:

23 [(1) Provide resource information on economics, economic  
24 education and personal financial literacy to educators and  
25 public and private schools and organizations.]

26 (1.1) Ensure that all recipients of a high school diploma in  
27 this Commonwealth are proficient in personal finance.

28 (1.2) Develop stand-alone kindergarten through grade twelve  
29 academic standards for personal finance that align with this  
30 section, sections 1551.1 and 1551.2 and 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4

1 (relating to academic standards and assessment).

2 (1.3) Provide resource information on personal finance to  
3 educators and public and private schools and organizations.

4 (2) Provide for the distribution, including through the  
5 department's Internet website, to school entities or private,  
6 nonpublic, elementary or secondary schools in this Commonwealth,  
7 teacher curriculum materials and other available resources,  
8 including [economic] personal finance education [partnership]  
9 programs[, on economic education and personal financial  
10 literacy, including the basic principle involved with earning,  
11 spending, saving and investing money. The materials shall align  
12 with and complement existing State standards for Economics,  
13 Family and Consumer Science, and Career Education and Work as  
14 set forth in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic standards  
15 and assessment)]. The materials shall align with State standards  
16 for personal finance education in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 that the  
17 department develops in accordance with this act.

18 [(3) Identify and recognize Commonwealth schools that  
19 implement exemplary economic and economic education and personal  
20 financial literacy curricula at each benchmark as set forth in  
21 existing State standards for Economics, Family and Consumer  
22 Science, and Career Education and Work as set forth in 22 Pa.  
23 Code Ch. 4.]

24 (4) Maintain an inventory of [economic education and  
25 personal financial literacy] personal finance materials,  
26 programs and resources available in Commonwealth agencies.

27 (b) In distributing materials and resources for use in  
28 schools, the department shall consider those currently available  
29 through international, national, Statewide and local economic,  
30 banking trade and personal finance education organizations.

1 [(c) (1) The department shall convene a task force on  
2 economic education and personal financial literacy education  
3 within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section.

4 (2) The task force shall consist of nine (9) members  
5 appointed by the secretary, in consultation with the Secretary  
6 of Banking, representing school administrators, finance or  
7 economics teachers, school boards, students, business leaders,  
8 faculty from this Commonwealth's institutions of higher  
9 education having a background in or knowledge of personal  
10 financial literacy and other groups with expertise in financial  
11 literacy education. The task force shall elect one (1) of its  
12 members to serve as chairperson.

13 (3) The task force shall:

14 (i) Assess the trends and needs in economic education and  
15 personal financial literacy.

16 (ii) Consider the manner in which any funds are used to  
17 support economic education and personal financial literacy  
18 activities.

19 (iii) Make recommendations to the Governor and the General  
20 Assembly regarding legislative or regulatory changes to improve  
21 economic education and personal financial literacy, pursuant to  
22 the preparation and submittal of the report required by  
23 subsection (d).]

24 (c.1) (1) The Office of Personal Finance Education is  
25 established in the department to oversee personal finance  
26 education programs.

27 (2) The Office of Personal Finance Education shall:

28 (i) Assess the trends and needs in personal finance  
29 education.

30 (ii) After completing the assessment under subparagraph (i),

1 assist in developing personal finance curricula in consultation  
2 with the State Treasurer, school administrators, finance or  
3 economics teachers, school boards, students, business leaders,  
4 faculty from this Commonwealth's institutions of higher  
5 education having a background in or knowledge of personal  
6 financial literacy and other groups with expertise in financial  
7 literacy education.

8 (iii) Create professional development programs for faculty  
9 to teach personal finance.

10 (iv) Make recommendations to the Governor and the General  
11 Assembly regarding legislative or regulatory changes to improve  
12 personal finance education and personal financial literacy,  
13 pursuant to the preparation and submittal of the report required  
14 by subsection (d).

15 (d) The secretary and the [Secretary of Banking] State  
16 Treasurer shall jointly prepare and submit[, in conjunction with  
17 the task force,] a biennial report to the Governor and the  
18 General Assembly on the status of [economic education and]  
19 personal financial literacy programs in this Commonwealth. In  
20 addition to the recommendations made in accordance with  
21 subsection [(c) (3) (iii)] (c.1) (2) (iv), the report shall outline  
22 [economic education and personal financial literacy] personal  
23 finance education programs and personal financial literacy  
24 achievements, highlight new initiatives and recommend future  
25 program needs.

26 [(e) The department may apply for any Federal, State or  
27 other funding that may be available to carry out the provisions  
28 of this section and may also use such unencumbered funds for  
29 grants to school entities and other measures to encourage the  
30 implementation of economic education and personal financial

1 literacy education programs.]

2 (e.1) The department may implement this section by  
3 distributing grants to school entities for personal finance  
4 education programs and professional development with funding  
5 from any of the following sources:

6 (1) A State appropriation.

7 (2) Any Federal, State or other source that may be available  
8 to carry out the provisions of this section.

9 (f) The following words and phrases when used in this  
10 section shall have the meanings given to them in this  
11 subsection:

12 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
13 Commonwealth.

14 ["Personal financial literacy." The integration of various  
15 factors relating to personal financial management, including  
16 understanding financial institutions, using money, learning to  
17 manage personal assets and liabilities, creating budgets and any  
18 other factors that may assist an individual in this Commonwealth  
19 to be financially responsible.]

20 "Personal finance." The principles and methods that  
21 individuals use to acquire and manage income and assets.

22 "Personal financial literacy." The ability to use knowledge  
23 and skills to manage one's financial resources for lifetime  
24 financial security.

25 "School entity." A public school district, charter school,  
26 cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area vocational-  
27 technical school.

28 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

29 Section 2. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

30 Section 1551.1. Personal Finance Instruction.--(a)

1 Beginning with school year 2018-2019 and each school year  
2 thereafter, each public school student shall receive instruction  
3 in personal finance from kindergarten through grade twelve. The  
4 instruction shall be aligned to the kindergarten through grade  
5 twelve academic standards for personal finance and may be  
6 integrated within mathematics, economics, social studies,  
7 language arts, business education or family and consumer science  
8 courses of study required in accordance with the State Board of  
9 Education regulations. Instruction may also be integrated into  
10 other appropriate courses of study.

11 (b) The instruction:

12 (1) Shall be age appropriate.

13 (2) Shall be sequential in method of study.

14 (3) Shall communicate the connection between personal  
15 finance concepts, broader economic concepts and age-appropriate  
16 situations a student may experience.

17 (4) Shall communicate personal finance concepts, including,  
18 but not limited to, the following:

19 (i) Money management.

20 (ii) Earning income.

21 (iii) Borrowing money.

22 (iv) Financial services.

23 (v) Risk management.

24 (vi) Saving and investing.

25 (vii) Other personal finance concepts specified by the State  
26 Board of Education in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic  
27 standards and assessment).

28 (5) Shall prepare a student for life after graduation.

29 Section 1551.2. Capstone Course in Personal Finance as

30 Graduation Requirement.--(a) The State Board of Education shall

1 require every candidate for a full high school diploma after  
2 September 2018 to receive at least one semester of instruction  
3 in a stand-alone capstone course relating to personal finance at  
4 some time during grade eleven or twelve of the candidate's  
5 educational career.

6 (b) In order to fulfill the graduation requirement under  
7 subsection (a), school districts may choose from several  
8 delivery options for offering the course, including classroom  
9 instruction, which shall be the equivalent of one semester or  
10 one-half credit, or as a standards-aligned, self-paced online or  
11 blended course which includes a district-approved, end-of-course  
12 assessment.

13 (c) Each school entity may utilize educational materials as  
14 provided for in section 1551 for the purpose of the graduation  
15 requirement under subsection (a).

16 (d) The Department of Education shall make available and  
17 conduct professional development to school districts that  
18 request assistance in implementing the provisions of this  
19 section.

20 (e) As used in this section, "capstone course" means a  
21 course of study that:

22 (1) occurs during grade eleven or twelve of a student's high  
23 school career;

24 (2) is designed to bring reflection and focus to the whole  
25 of the student's learning throughout the student's years of  
26 education on a particular subject;

27 (3) is a comprehensive review of the subject matter being  
28 considered; and

29 (4) effectively culminates in each student demonstrating a  
30 comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

1 Section 1551.3. Personal Finance Education Fund.--(a) The  
2 Personal Finance Education Fund is established in the State  
3 Treasury. The money of the fund shall be used for grants under  
4 section 1551(e.1).

5 (b) The fund shall consist of all money collected by the  
6 Commonwealth under subsection (c) and money solicited by the  
7 State Treasurer under subsection (d).

8 (c) (1) The Department of Revenue shall provide a space on  
9 the Pennsylvania individual income tax return form whereby an  
10 individual may voluntarily designate a contribution of an amount  
11 desired to the Personal Finance Education Fund.

12 (2) The amount designated under paragraph (1) by an  
13 individual on the income tax return form shall be deducted from  
14 the tax refund to which that individual is entitled and shall  
15 not constitute a charge against the income tax revenues due to  
16 the Commonwealth.

17 (3) The Department of Revenue shall determine annually the  
18 total amount designated pursuant to this subsection, less  
19 reasonable administrative costs, and shall report the amount to  
20 the State Treasurer, who shall transfer the amount from the  
21 General Fund to the Personal Finance Education Fund.

22 (d) The State Treasurer shall solicit money for the Personal  
23 Finance Education Fund and may designate employees of the  
24 Treasury Department to carry out this duty.

25 Section 3. The sum of \$3,000,000 is hereby appropriated to  
26 the Department of Education for the purpose of administering  
27 this act.

28 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.