
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1276 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, AUGUST 31, 2020

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, AUGUST 31, 2020

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 intermediate units, further
6 providing for staff; in professional employees, providing for
7 athletic leaves of absence; and, in vocational education,
8 further providing for organization and operation of schools
9 and institutes.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 913-A(e) of the act of March 10, 1949
13 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
14 amended to read:

15 Section 913-A. Staff.--* * *

16 (e) All professional and temporary professional employes of
17 an intermediate unit shall have the same rights of tenure,
18 minimum salaries and increments, leaves of absence because of
19 illness, professional study or physical disability, sabbatical
20 leaves, military leaves, athletic leaves of absence and exchange
21 teacher leaves as professional and temporary professional
22 employes of school districts.

1 * * *

2 Section 2. Article XI of the act is amended by adding a
3 subdivision to read:

4 (f.1) Athletic Leaves of Absence.

5 Section 1172. Definitions.

6 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent
7 provisions of this subdivision which are applicable to specific
8 provisions of this subdivision, the following words and phrases
9 when used in this subdivision shall have the meanings given to
10 them in this section unless the context clearly indicates
11 otherwise:

12 "Member of a United States team." Any group leader, coach,
13 official, referee or athlete who comprises the official
14 delegation of the United States on the world championship team,
15 Pan American team or Olympic team in a sport sanctioned by the
16 International Olympic Committee.

17 Section 1173. Leave of absence.

18 A professional employee who qualifies as a member of a United
19 States team shall be entitled to an athletic leave of absence
20 for the purpose of preparing for and engaging in the
21 competition. The leave may be paid or unpaid as agreed to
22 between the school district and the professional employee. In no
23 event shall the leave under this section exceed the period of
24 the official training and competition combined or 90 calendar
25 days a year, whichever is less.

26 Section 1174. Rights retained.

27 (a) Attendance.--Every employee, while on athletic leave of
28 absence, shall be considered to be in regular full-time daily
29 attendance in the position from which the leave was taken,
30 during the period of said leave, for the purpose of determining

1 the employee's length of service and the right to receive
2 increments, as provided by law.

3 (b) Membership.--Every employee on athletic leave of absence
4 shall continue membership in the Public School Employees'
5 Retirement System and the athletic leave of absence shall be
6 deemed credited school service, subject to compliance with 24
7 Pa.C.S. § 8302(b) (relating to credited school service).

8 Section 3. Section 1850.1(b) (9) of the act is amended to
9 read:

10 Section 1850.1. Organization and Operation of Schools and
11 Institutes.--* * *

12 (b) The area vocational-technical board shall have authority
13 and its duty shall be:

14 * * *

15 (9) To employ temporary professional and professional
16 employes, supervisors and teachers, and to employ all other
17 persons necessary to carry on vocational-technical education and
18 technical institutes, and to determine the salaries to be paid.
19 All temporary professional and professional employes so employed
20 shall have the same rights of tenure, minimum salaries and
21 increments, leaves of absence because of illness or physical
22 disability, leaves of absence because of death in the immediate
23 family or death of a near relative, sabbatical leaves, military
24 leaves, athletic leaves of absence, exchange teacher leaves, and
25 membership in the Public School Employees' Retirement System as
26 temporary professional and professional employes of school
27 districts. No professional employe who has attained tenure
28 status as an employe of any area vocational-technical board
29 shall, thereafter, be required to serve as a temporary
30 professional employe before being tendered such a contract when

1 employed by any other part of the public school system of the
2 Commonwealth;

3 * * *

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