

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 576 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY BENHAM, SANCHEZ, MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS,  
N. NELSON, CONKLIN AND NEILSON, MARCH 20, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 20, 2023

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 pupils and attendance, providing  
6 for evaluation of potentially hazardous walking routes; and  
7 imposing duties on the Department of Transportation.

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

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

13 Section 1368. Evaluation of Potentially Hazardous Walking  
14 Routes.--(a) The department shall develop a form for members of  
15 the public, including students and parents and guardians of  
16 students, to request that a school district contact the  
17 department to evaluate potentially hazardous walking routes for  
18 students on their way to and from a school in the school  
19 district. The following apply:

20 (1) The form shall be:

1     (i) Provided by the department and the school district in  
2 hard copy form upon request.

3     (ii) Posted on the publicly accessible Internet website of  
4 the department and the school district.

5     (2) The form shall:

6     (i) Require the name, address, telephone number and other  
7 contact information of the requestor completing the form.

8     (ii) Contain space for a full description of the potentially  
9 hazardous walking route.

10    (iii) Allow for the submittal of any available photographs  
11 of the potentially hazardous walking route.

12    (b) A school district that receives a completed form under  
13 subsection (a) shall notify the requestor regarding whether the  
14 school district has determined that the department should be  
15 contacted to evaluate the potentially hazardous walking route.  
16 If the school district determines that the department should not  
17 be so contacted, the school district shall inform the requestor  
18 of the reason for that determination.

19    (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
20 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
21 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

22    "Department." The Department of Transportation of the  
23 Commonwealth.

24    Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.