

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2112 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY GREEN, WAXMAN, PROBST, FREEMAN, PARKER, SANCHEZ,
KAZEEM, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, CONKLIN, MALAGARI AND DALEY,
MARCH 14, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 14, 2024

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 providing for school swimming education program; in
7 reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts,
8 providing for payments on account of school swimming
9 education program; and making an appropriation.

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

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

15 Section 1529. School Swimming Education Program.--(a) On or
16 before July 1, 2025, the department shall identify or develop a
17 model curriculum and guidelines for instruction in water and
18 swimming safety for students in grades kindergarten through
19 twelve.

20 (b) The model curriculum and guidelines under this section
21 shall:

1 (1) Be posted on the publicly accessible Internet website of
2 the department.

3 (2) Be age appropriate.

4 (3) Be made available to all school entities and, upon
5 request, to nonpublic schools.

6 (4) At a minimum, include instruction on:

7 (i) Awareness of water conditions.

8 (ii) Safe behaviors in and around the water.

9 (iii) The proper use of flotation devices.

10 (iv) The importance of avoiding alcohol and substance use
11 with water recreation.

12 (v) Any other subject that the department determines to be
13 appropriate.

14 (c) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, a school
15 entity may utilize the model curriculum and guidelines under
16 this section or develop the school entity's own curriculum in
17 accordance with academic standards and consistent with this
18 section. The following apply:

19 (1) The school entity may partner with a local parks and
20 recreation agency to provide access to the necessary water and
21 swimming facilities to implement the curriculum under this
22 section.

23 (2) The school entity may utilize appropriate publicly or
24 privately available materials, personnel and other resources in
25 developing and implementing the curriculum, subject to the
26 requirements of section 111 and 23 Pa.C.S. § 6344 (relating to
27 employees having contact with children; adoptive and foster
28 parents).

29 (d) The sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) is
30 initially appropriated from the General Fund to the department

1 to provide for the implementation, administration and
2 enforcement of this section and for the payments specified under
3 section 2504.5.

4 (e) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations as
5 necessary to implement, administer and enforce this section.

6 (f) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
7 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
8 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 "Department." The Department of Education of the
10 Commonwealth.

11 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,
12 charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school,
13 intermediate unit or area career and technical school.

14 Section 2504.5. Payments on Account of School Swimming
15 Education Program.--The Department of Education shall pay each
16 school entity that complies with the school swimming education
17 program established under section 1529, from money appropriated
18 under section 1529 or otherwise appropriated by the General
19 Assembly, an amount to be determined by multiplying the number
20 of pupils who have completed the school swimming education
21 program conducted by the school entity by thirty-five dollars
22 (\$35).

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