

## 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," providing for academic standards and  
6 testing 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 123. Academic Standards and Testing Commission.--(a)  
13 The State Board shall establish an Academic Standards and  
14 Testing Commission to study and offer recommendations to the  
15 State Board concerning the Commonwealth's academic standards and  
16 assessments as provided for in this section.

17 (b) (1) Not earlier than January 1, 2017, but not later  
18 than February 1, 2017, the State Board shall appoint the members  
19 of the commission, which shall include representatives of the

1 State Board, the department, business, school districts, charter  
2 schools, cyber charter schools, regional charter schools, area  
3 vocational-technical schools, intermediate units, the State  
4 System of Higher Education, State-related universities,  
5 community colleges, independent colleges and universities and  
6 the United States Armed Forces.

7 (2) The commission shall appoint a member to serve as chair  
8 of the commission.

9 (3) After appointing the commission pursuant to paragraph  
10 (1), the State Board shall convene the first meeting of the  
11 commission by March 1, 2017. The commission shall hold future  
12 meetings at the call of the chair.

13 (4) Members of the commission shall not receive compensation  
14 for their services, but shall be reimbursed for all necessary  
15 travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with  
16 the performance of their duties as members of the commission.

17 (5) The department shall provide administrative support,  
18 meeting space and any other assistance required by the  
19 commission to carry out its duties under this section. The  
20 department shall also provide the commission and the State Board  
21 with data, research and other information upon request by the  
22 commission or the State Board.

23 (c) The commission shall have the following powers and  
24 duties:

25 (1) Review and make findings and recommendations related to  
26 the Commonwealth's academic standards and assessments.

27 (2) Consult with and utilize experts to assist the  
28 commission in carrying out its duties under this section.

29 (3) Hold public hearings.

30 (4) Receive input from interested parties.

1 (5) Review and consider academic standards and assessments  
2 utilized throughout the United States.

3 (6) Within two (2) years after the commission's first  
4 meeting, issue a report of its findings and recommendations to  
5 the Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the  
6 Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate, the Education  
7 Committee of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
8 Representatives, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the  
9 House of Representatives, the Education Committee of the House  
10 of Representatives, the Secretary of Education and the State  
11 Board.

12 (d) Upon receipt of the report required under subsection (c)  
13 (6), the State Board shall consider the report and promulgate  
14 regulations necessary to implement the recommendations pursuant  
15 to the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the  
16 "Regulatory Review Act."

17 (e) Every five (5) years following issuance of the  
18 commission's report under subsection (c)(6), the commission  
19 shall be reconstituted in accordance with subsection (b), shall  
20 meet and hold public hearings to review the operation of the  
21 Commonwealth's academic standards and assessments, shall make a  
22 further report and shall issue the report to the recipients  
23 listed in subsection (c)(6). When in receipt of a further report  
24 recommending changes to the Commonwealth's academic standards  
25 and assessments, the State Board shall consider the report and  
26 promulgate regulations necessary to implement the  
27 recommendations pursuant to the "Regulatory Review Act."

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

1       "Academic standards." The academic standards established  
2 pursuant to 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 (relating to academic  
3 standards and assessment).

4       "Assessment." The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment  
5 test, the Keystone Exam or another test established by the State  
6 Board pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 4.51(f) (relating to State  
7 assessment system).

8       "Commission." The Academic Standards and Testing Commission  
9 established under this section.

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

12       "State Board." The State Board of Education.

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