

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of January 28, 1988 (P.L.24, No.11), entitled
2 "An act defining and providing for the licensing and
3 regulation of private academic schools; reestablishing the
4 State Board of Private Academic Schools; imposing penalties;
5 and making repeals," further providing for definitions, for
6 State Board of Private Academic Schools, for powers and
7 duties of board, for application for license, for issuance
8 and renewal of license, for directory of private academic
9 schools, for requirements for licensure and operation, for
10 enforcement, refusal, suspension or revocation of license and
11 for promulgation of rules and regulations.

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

14 Section 1. Sections 2, 3(c) and (g), 4(b) and (c), 7(a) and
15 (b), 8(a) and (b), 11, 12(a), 13(b)(4) and 14 of the act of
16 January 28, 1988 (P.L.24, No.11), known as the Private Academic
17 Schools Act, are amended to read:

18 Section 2. Definitions.

19 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
20 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
21 context clearly indicates otherwise:

22 "Annual." Twelve months from the date of initial licensure.

1 nonacademic in character.

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

3 Section 3. State Board of Private Academic Schools.

4 * * *

5 (c) Administrative support.--Administrative support for the
6 board shall be provided by the [department] office in accordance
7 with section 214 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175),
8 known as The Administrative Code of 1929. The [department]
9 office shall periodically consult with the board regarding its
10 administrative needs.

11 * * *

12 (g) Documents.--Certificates of licensure and other official
13 documents approved by the board shall be issued by the
14 [department] office.

15 Section 4. Powers and duties of board.

16 * * *

17 (b) Disposition of student records.--The board shall require
18 every applicant for initial licensure to provide a written
19 statement describing arrangements for disposition of student
20 records in the event of closure. It shall be the duty of the
21 board and the [department] office to assist in the execution of
22 the arrangements when necessary.

23 (c) Enforcement by [department] office.--The regulations
24 promulgated by the board shall be enforced by the [department]
25 office. The [department] office may submit to individual experts
26 for review, programs and courses and financial statements
27 proposed or offered by a school.

28 Section 7. Application for license.

29 (a) General rule.--Before any license is issued to a private
30 academic school, a verified application shall be made, in

1 Section 8. Issuance and renewal of license.

2 (a) General rule.--The [department] office shall issue an
3 original license to the applicant if the board finds that the
4 application and the school for which a license is sought comply
5 with the provisions of this act and with the rules and
6 regulations promulgated under this act.

7 (b) Duration and renewal.--Each original school license
8 issued shall be effective from the date of issue until the same
9 date of the month of original issue the following year and shall
10 be renewed annually thereafter on a form prepared and furnished
11 by the [department] office.

12 * * *

13 Section 11. Directory of private academic schools.

14 The [department] office shall maintain a list of private
15 academic schools which shall be available to the public.

16 Section 12. Requirements for licensure and operation.

17 (a) Inspection.--No private academic school may be granted a
18 license or permitted to continue to operate under a granted
19 license unless it permits the board and its representatives to
20 inspect the school or classes or, in the case of an online
21 school, any office space or facility from which instruction will
22 be transmitted or from which administrative support is offered
23 and makes available to the board, at any time when requested to
24 do so, full information pertaining to the operation of the
25 school.

26 * * *

27 Section 13. Enforcement, refusal, suspension or revocation of
28 license.

29 * * *

30 (b) Refusal to issue, suspension of and revocation of

1 exemptions as may be required to accommodate the ability
2 of online schools to provide instruction and student
3 services.

4 (2) The rules, regulations, policies, principles and
5 standards shall take effect within 18 months of the effective
6 date of this subsection.

7 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to
8 the contrary, the board may not issue a license to an online
9 school until the rules and regulations, policies, principles
10 and standards required by paragraph (1) are in effect.

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