

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 preliminary provisions,
6 establishing the Academic Standards Commission and providing
7 for its powers and duties.

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 124. Academic Standards Commission.--(a) There is
14 hereby established the Academic Standards Commission to study
15 and offer recommendations to the General Assembly, department
16 and the State Board concerning the Pennsylvania Core Standards
17 as provided for in this section.

18 (b) (1) The commission shall consist of the following
19 members:

20 (i) The chair and minority chair of the Education Committee

1 of the Senate and the chair and minority chair of the Education
2 Committee of the House of Representatives or their designees.
3 (ii) Five (5) appointees of the President pro tempore of the
4 Senate as follows:
5 (A) one (1) public school teacher in this Commonwealth;
6 (B) one (1) public school administrator in this
7 Commonwealth;
8 (C) one (1) member of a board of school directors in this
9 Commonwealth;
10 (D) one (1) employee of an institution of higher education
11 in this Commonwealth who holds an administrative or teaching
12 position; and
13 (E) one (1) business or community leader in this
14 Commonwealth.
15 (iii) Five (5) appointees of the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives as follows:
17 (A) one (1) public school teacher in this Commonwealth;
18 (B) one (1) public school administrator in this
19 Commonwealth;
20 (C) one (1) member of a board of school directors in this
21 Commonwealth;
22 (D) one (1) employee of an institution of higher education
23 in this Commonwealth who holds an administrative or teaching
24 position; and
25 (E) one (1) business or community leader in this
26 Commonwealth.
27 (iv) The Secretary of Education or a designee.
28 (v) The chairman of the State Board or a designee.
29 (vi) One (1) appointee of the Governor from within the
30 Governor's Administration.

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

3 (3) The commission shall hold its first meeting within
4 ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section,
5 regardless of whether every appointment provided for under
6 paragraph (1) has been made.

7 (4) The commission shall hold meetings at the call of the
8 chair.

9 (5) Members of the commission shall not receive compensation
10 for their services, but shall be reimbursed for all necessary
11 travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with
12 the performance of their duties as members of the commission.

13 (6) The department shall provide administrative support,
14 meeting space and any other assistance required by the
15 commission to carry out its duties under this section. The
16 department shall also provide the commission with data, research
17 and other information upon request by the commission.

18 (c) The commission shall have the following powers and
19 duties:

20 (1) Review and make findings and recommendations related to
21 the Pennsylvania Core Standards. The recommendations of the
22 commission may include suggested policy statements, guidelines,
23 regulations or legislation to be adopted by the General
24 Assembly, department and State Board and may include suggested
25 improvements to, or complete replacement of, the Pennsylvania
26 Core Standards.

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 utilized
2 throughout the United States.

3 (6) Within eighteen (18) months 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) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
13 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
14 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Pennsylvania Core Standards." The Pennsylvania Core
16 Standards provided for in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to
17 academic standards and assessment).

18 "Commission." The Academic Standards Commission established
19 under this section.

20 "Department." The Department of Education of the
21 Commonwealth.

22 "State Board." The State Board of Education.

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