
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 20

Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY STAIRS, BAKER, SAYLOR, TRUE, HERMAN, KING, BROWN,
FARGO, COLAIZZO, KREBS, ARMSTRONG, LYNCH, PLATTS, HERSHEY,
FLEAGLE, EGOLF, COWELL, SCHULER, RUDY, RAYMOND, MILLER, HESS,
HALUSKA, STERN, B. SMITH, GEIST, COY, TULLI, STEELMAN, MERRY,
MARSICO, LLOYD, CIVERA AND YOUNGBLOOD, JANUARY 19, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 19, 1995

AN ACT

1 Providing for agricultural education programs; imposing duties
2 on the Department of Education; and creating the Advisory
3 Council on Agricultural Education.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Agricultural
8 Education Act.

9 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

10 The General Assembly declares it is the purpose of this act
11 to:

12 (1) Require the Department of Education to develop and
13 implement agricultural education programs for the educational
14 systems of this Commonwealth, which programs shall be
15 available to the general student population. The programs
16 shall incorporate agricultural concepts into the basic school
17 curricula and shall be designed to educate the general

1 student population about the importance of the agriculture
2 industry and the role of agriculture in the students' lives.
3 Agricultural education programs may include instruction on
4 issues related to agriculture, including, but not limited to,
5 food safety, pesticides, farmland preservation, waste
6 management, wetlands, nutrient management, food production
7 and food processing, animal health, and statutory and
8 regulatory protections of the right to farm.

9 (2) Encourage the agricultural education efforts of
10 other agencies where appropriate, including, but not limited
11 to, those of the county conservation districts, the
12 Cooperative Extension Service of the Pennsylvania State
13 University, the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School,
14 the Department of Agriculture, the Department of
15 Environmental Resources, the Department of Community Affairs
16 and the Department of Transportation.

17 (3) Create and establish the Advisory Council on
18 Agricultural Education within the Department of Education.

19 Section 3. Definitions.

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

23 "Council." The Advisory Council on Agricultural Education
24 established under this act.

25 "Department." The Department of Education of the
26 Commonwealth.

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

28 Section 4. Powers and duties of department.

29 The department shall have the power and its duty shall be to:

30 (1) Provide assistance, support and resource information

1 to educators and public and private education agencies and
2 organizations on agricultural education programs.

3 (2) Identify, recognize and establish awards for
4 exemplary agricultural education curricula developed in
5 Commonwealth schools.

6 (3) Use the department's council and local school
7 district occupational advisory committees to serve as the
8 conduit to bring youth and adult education programs into
9 communities and schools, focusing on agricultural industry
10 issues of importance to this Commonwealth.

11 Section 5. Agricultural education report.

12 The secretary shall prepare and submit an annual report to
13 the Governor and the General Assembly outlining agricultural
14 education programs and achievements, highlighting new
15 initiatives and recommending future program needs.

16 Section 6. Advisory Council on Agricultural Education.

17 (a) Duties.--There is hereby created the Advisory Council on
18 Agricultural Education within the Department of Education. The
19 council shall:

20 (1) Advise and assist the secretary in conducting a
21 continual assessment of the trends and needs in agricultural
22 education.

23 (2) Advise and assist the secretary in carrying out
24 agricultural education activities.

25 (3) Make recommendations to the secretary with respect
26 to the use of any funds used to support agricultural
27 education activities.

28 (4) Make recommendations to the secretary to help foster
29 agricultural education programs.

30 (b) Composition.--The council shall consist of 13 members,

1 as follows:

2 (1) The secretary, who shall serve as chairperson.

3 (2) The Secretary of Agriculture.

4 (3) Eleven members to be appointed by the secretary as
5 follows:

6 (i) Three Commonwealth residents representing the
7 food processing industry.

8 (ii) Three Commonwealth residents who are active in
9 commercial agricultural production industry.

10 (iii) Three Commonwealth residents representing the
11 commercial agricultural marketing industry.

12 (iv) One representative of an agricultural college
13 from a State-related university.

14 (v) One member who is a vocational agriculture
15 teacher. In appointing this member, the secretary shall
16 consider nominees recommended by the Pennsylvania
17 Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association.

18 In appointing members representing the food processing,
19 commercial agricultural production and commercial
20 agricultural marketing industries, the secretary shall
21 consider nominees from listings prepared and submitted by the
22 Pennsylvania Council of Farm Organizations and the public at
23 large.

24 (c) Appointments, terms and expenses.--The terms of office
25 for each of the 11 appointed council members shall be three
26 years. However, the initial appointment of members representing
27 the food processing, commercial agricultural production and
28 commercial agricultural marketing industries shall be as
29 follows:

30 (1) One member representing each industry shall be

1 appointed for a term of one year.

2 (2) One member representing each industry shall be
3 appointed for a term of two years.

4 (3) One member representing each industry shall be
5 appointed for a term of three years.

6 A member may be appointed for more than one term and shall serve
7 until a successor has been appointed. Members shall not be
8 compensated but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses in
9 accordance with the rules of the executive board.

10 (d) Offices and bylaws.--The council shall convene at least
11 annually, shall elect a vice chairperson to serve a one-year
12 term and shall adopt bylaws for governing its operations.

13 (e) Staff.--The secretary shall designate staff as may be
14 necessary for the operation of the council.

15 Section 7. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect in 60 days.