

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 660 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY KILLION AND MCGARRIGLE, MAY 2, 2017

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 2, 2017

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, further
 6 providing for Keystone Exams.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 121(a) of the act of March 10, 1949
 10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
 11 amended February 3, 2016 (P.L.1, No.1), is amended and the
 12 section is amended by adding subsections to read:

13 Section 121. Keystone Exams.--(a) [Subject to annual
 14 appropriation, not later than the 2020-2021 school year, the]
 15 The Department of Education shall develop and implement Keystone
 16 Exams in [the following subjects:] algebra I, literature[,
 17 biology, English composition, algebra II, geometry, United
 18 States history, chemistry, civics and government and world
 19 history.] and biology. The State Board of Education shall
 20 promulgate regulations, subject to the act of June 25, 1982

1 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act,"
2 necessary to implement this section.

3 * * *

4 (c) Notwithstanding section 2604-B(b)(2)(v), 22 Pa. Code §
5 4.24 or 4.51 or any statute or regulation to the contrary, in
6 any school year in which a demonstration of proficiency on a
7 Keystone Exam is required for high school graduation, a CTE
8 Concentrator shall be deemed proficient provided that the CTE
9 Concentrator shall meet all of the following requirements:

10 (1) completes locally established grade-based requirements
11 for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on
12 which the CTE Concentrator did not achieve proficiency. For the
13 purposes of this paragraph, completion of grade-based
14 requirements in any science and technology and environment and
15 ecology course shall satisfy the requirements for the academic
16 content area associated with the Keystone Exam in biology; and

17 (2) completes one of the following:

18 (i) attains an industry-based competency certification
19 related to the CTE Concentrator's program of study; or

20 (ii) demonstrates a high likelihood of success on an
21 approved industry-based competency assessment or readiness for
22 continued meaningful engagement in the CTE Concentrator's
23 program of study as demonstrated by performance on benchmark
24 assessments, course grades and other factors consistent with the
25 CTE Concentrator's goals and career plan.

26 (d) Notwithstanding section 2604-B(b)(2)(v), 22 Pa. Code §
27 4.24 or 4.51 or any statute or regulation to the contrary, in
28 any school year in which a demonstration of proficiency on a
29 Keystone Exam is required for high school graduation, a student
30 shall be deemed proficient if the student demonstrates

1 competency in standards-based subject matter content through
2 course grades or assessments and through three or more rigorous
3 and compelling pieces of evidence that reflect the student's
4 readiness for meaningful postsecondary engagement consistent
5 with the student's goals and career plans. The rigorous and
6 compelling pieces of evidence include, but are not limited to,
7 the following:

8 (1) The earning of a passing grade in a dual enrollment
9 course.

10 (2) Adequate performance on the Armed Services Vocational
11 Aptitude Battery test for enlistment.

12 (3) A guaranteed full-time employment letter.

13 (4) Attainment of a high-value industry credential.

14 (5) Attainment of a workforce readiness certificate.

15 (6) A certificate of successful completion of an internship
16 program related to career goals.

17 (7) High performance on the Academic Standards for Career
18 Education and Work assessment.

19 (8) High performance on an SAT or ACT subject-specific test.

20 (e) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
21 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
22 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

23 "Approved industry-based competency assessment." A NOCTI
24 exam, NIMS assessment or other industry-based competency
25 assessment identified by the Secretary of Education and approved
26 by the State Board of Education.

27 "CTE Concentrator." A student who, by the end of a reporting
28 year, will be reported as successfully completing at least fifty
29 percent (50%) of the minimum technical instructional hours
30 required under 22 Pa. Code Ch. 339 (relating to vocational

1 education).

2 "NIMS assessment." An assessment based on the National
3 Institute for Metalworking Skills standards.

4 "NOCTI exam." A National Occupational Competency Testing
5 Institute exam.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.