
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 446

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. GALLAGHER, LINCOLN, PANCOAST, GARZIA,
BURNS, COHEN, E. Z. TAYLOR, FREIND AND BERLIN, MARCH 2, 1977

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, APRIL 26, 1977

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled,
2 "An act relating to the public school system, including
3 certain provisions applicable as well to private and
4 parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and
5 changing the laws relating thereto," by providing for the
6 emergency generated by the gas crisis in relationship to the
7 length of the school year, the compensation of employes and
8 the graduation of qualified students.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
12 as the "Public School Code of 1949" is amended by adding a
13 section to read:

14 Section 1501.1. Weather Emergency of 1977.--(a) For the
15 school year 1976-77 all public and approved private
16 kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, vocational-
17 technical schools, and intermediate unit programs of
18 instruction, shall make every effort to keep open for at least
19 one hundred seventy-seven (177) days of instruction for pupils
20 and, in the alternative, the Secretary of Education shall

1 authorize, without need of application, each school district to
2 have the option of computing the instructional time on an hourly
3 basis, rather than a daily basis, of nine hundred (900) hours
4 for elementary and nine hundred ninety (990) hours for secondary
5 schools. No public or approved private kindergarten, elementary
6 or secondary school, vocational-technical school, or
7 intermediate unit program of instruction which was closed
8 because of the Weather Emergency and which makes a good faith
9 effort as determined by the Secretary of Education to keep open
10 for at least one hundred seventy-seven (177) days or the
11 optional hourly basis of instruction for pupils shall receive
12 less subsidy payments or reimbursements than it would otherwise
13 be entitled to receive on account of the school year 1976-77. No
14 employee of any school closed by reason of the Weather Emergency
15 of 1977 shall receive more or less compensation, including any <—
16 unemployment compensation benefits paid, than that to which the
17 employee would otherwise have been entitled to from the school
18 district, intermediate unit or vocational-technical school, had
19 the Weather Emergency of 1977 not occurred.

20 (b) An employee shall not receive additional salary for
21 services rendered on days or for hours rescheduled as a result
22 of the Weather Emergency of 1977, unless the number of days
23 rescheduled extends the number of days provided for in the
24 original school calendar; in which case, an employee shall
25 receive a prorata increase for such additional days.

26 (c) A school district shall not be required to change its
27 high school graduation schedule or require graduating students
28 to return to school after graduation to demonstrate good faith
29 for the purposes of subsection (a).

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall

1 expire on June 30, 1977.