

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1898 Session of
1984

INTRODUCED BY D. R. WRIGHT, GALLAGHER, MANDERINO, IRVIS,
PIEVSKY, F. E. TAYLOR, BURNS, STEWART, STEIGHNER, STUBAN,
WARGO, ITKIN, BELFANTI, COY, GEORGE, RICHARDSON, COWELL,
TIGUE, WAMBACH, MURPHY, RUDY, DOMBROWSKI, KUKOVICH, HARPER,
FISCHER, WASS, BATTISTO, FREIND, BURNS, LIVENGOOD, STAIRS,
BROUJOS AND FEE, FEBRUARY 6, 1984

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, JUNE 28, 1984

AN ACT

1 ~~Establishing an Information Technology Education Board within~~ <—
2 ~~the Department of Education; enlarging the responsibilities~~
3 ~~of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency;~~
4 ~~creating Regional Computer Resource Centers; and establishing~~
5 ~~Regional Computer Resource Center boards.~~

6 ESTABLISHING WITHIN THE PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE <—
7 AGENCY REGIONAL COMPUTER RESOURCE CENTERS AND REGIONAL
8 COMPUTER RESOURCE CENTER BOARDS.

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

11 Section 1. Short title.

12 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Information
13 Technology Education Act.

14 ~~Section 2. Legislative intent.~~ <—

15 ~~(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds:~~

16 ~~(1) The ability to use and process information is an~~
17 ~~essential skill to a productive society.~~

18 ~~(2) Computers have become universal devices in the~~

1 ~~processing of information.~~

2 ~~(3) Surveys have found that relatively few students are~~
3 ~~obtaining access to computers and that these students have~~
4 ~~access for relatively short periods of time.~~

5 ~~(4) There is a potentially increasing gap between~~
6 ~~economically advantaged and economically disadvantaged~~
7 ~~students regarding computer availability.~~

8 ~~(5) The department has found that an overwhelming~~
9 ~~majority of teachers in the Commonwealth have no computer~~
10 ~~proficiency.~~

11 SECTION 2. PURPOSE. <—

12 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

13 ~~(6)~~ (1) It is the best interest of the Commonwealth to <—
14 improve and strengthen computer education in its elementary
15 and secondary schools by:

16 (I) COORDINATING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL <—
17 COMPUTER RESOURCE CENTERS WITH THE EXISTING SCIENCE
18 TEACHERS EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE
19 PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY.

20 ~~(i)~~ (II) Encouraging orderly planning for the use of <—
21 microcomputers and for the application of microcomputers
22 to the instructional programs of elementary and secondary
23 schools.

24 ~~(ii)~~ (III) Improving teacher training in computer <—
25 education.

26 ~~(iii)~~ (IV) Encouraging the acquisition of computer <—
27 hardware.

28 ~~(iv)~~ (V) Assisting in the acquisition of appropriate <—
29 computer software.

30 ~~(b) Intent. The General Assembly intends that:~~ <—

1 Commonwealth.

2 "INTERMEDIATE UNIT." AN INTERMEDIATE UNIT AS DEFINED BY THE <—
3 ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC
4 SCHOOL CODE OF 1949.

5 ~~Section 4.— Establishment of Information Technology Education~~ <—
6 ~~Board.~~

7 ~~(a) Creation.— There is hereby created the Information~~
8 ~~Technology Education Board within the Department of Education.~~

9 ~~(b) Members.— The board shall consist of seven members. Four~~
10 ~~members shall be legislators, one from each party represented in~~
11 ~~each house. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall~~
12 ~~designate the members from the House and the President pro~~
13 ~~tempore shall designate the members from the Senate. One member~~
14 ~~shall be the Secretary of Education or his designee. One member~~
15 ~~shall be the Executive Director of Pennsylvania Higher Education~~
16 ~~Assistance Agency or his designee. These six members shall serve~~
17 ~~for the duration of their respective terms of office, and~~
18 ~~members from the House and Senate may be reappointed to the~~
19 ~~board if reelected to legislative office. The one remaining~~
20 ~~member shall be appointed by the Governor.~~

21 ~~(c) Powers and duties.— The board shall be responsible for~~
22 ~~establishing uniform school district application and review~~
23 ~~procedures for grant proposals submitted to Regional Computer~~
24 ~~Resource Centers by local school districts. It shall allocate~~
25 ~~the appropriation for hardware and software acquisition grants~~
26 ~~among the centers. It shall review annual reports of program~~
27 ~~content, effectiveness and costs which will be submitted by the~~
28 ~~centers.~~

29 ~~(d) Nonpublic schools allocation.— Consistent with the~~
30 ~~provisions of section 923 A of the act of March 10, 1949~~

1 ~~(P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, and of~~
2 ~~Chapter 2 of the Federal Education Consolidation and Improvement~~
3 ~~Act of 1981 (P.L.97 35, 20 U.S.C. § 3801 et seq.), the~~
4 ~~Information Technology Education Board shall allocate \$1,000,000~~
5 ~~annually among the intermediate units of the department, for the~~
6 ~~life of this act, from Federal Education Consolidation and~~
7 ~~Improvement Act Chapter 2 funds, for the purpose of loaning~~
8 ~~computer hardware and software to nonpublic schools.~~

9 Section 5 4. Responsibility of Pennsylvania Higher Education <—
10 Assistance Agency.

11 (a) Establish centers.--The Pennsylvania Higher Education
12 Assistance Agency shall establish not less than eight ~~nor more~~ <—
13 ~~than ten~~ Regional Computer Resource Centers throughout the
14 Commonwealth at sites based on demography. ~~availability of~~ <—
15 ~~expertise, equalization of workload and prior experience in~~
16 ~~providing related educational services to basic education.~~

17 ~~(b) Teacher training grant supervision. The agency shall be~~
18 ~~responsible for reviewing teacher training grant proposals~~
19 ~~submitted on behalf of teachers by Regional Computer Resource~~
20 ~~Centers. It shall allocate the appropriation for teacher~~
21 ~~training grants among the centers.~~

22 (B) GRANT SUPERVISION.--THE AGENCY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR <—
23 REVIEWING SCHOOL DISTRICT GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY REGIONAL
24 COMPUTER RESOURCE CENTERS.

25 (C) POWERS TO MAKE GRANTS.--THE HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
26 AGENCY SHALL MAKE GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS. THOSE GRANTS SHALL
27 REFLECT AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

28 (1) THE AID RATIO AS DEFINED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE
29 OF 1949.

30 (2) SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT.

1 EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLYING SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SUPPLY THE
2 BALANCE OF THE FUNDING NECESSARY FOR ITS PROGRAM. THE BALANCE
3 MAY BE SUPPLIED IN CASH OR IN KIND.

4 Section ~~6~~ 5. Regional Computer Resource Centers. <—

5 (a) Purpose.--The purposes of each Regional Computer
6 Resource Center are to increase teacher expertise relating to
7 computer information technology and to assist local school
8 districts within the region to ACQUIRE, UTILIZE AND upgrade <—
9 computer hardware and software. To this end, it will:

10 (1) Provide teacher training.

11 (2) Help design computer oriented curricula.

12 (3) Assist with the evaluation of software.

13 (4) Review and evaluate proposals for upgrading computer
14 and computer oriented instruction.

15 ~~(5) Provide funding for computer hardware and software.~~ <—

16 ~~(6)~~ (5) Coordinate purchase of computer hardware and
17 software.

18 (6) LOAN COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE TO NONPUBLIC <—
19 SCHOOL STUDENTS.

20 REGIONAL COMPUTER RESOURCE CENTERS MAY CONTRACT WITH
21 INTERMEDIATE UNITS TO PROVIDE THE ABOVE SERVICES.

22 (b) Regional Computer Resource Center Board.--

23 (1) ~~The Information Technology Education Board~~ THE BOARD <—
24 OF DIRECTORS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
25 AGENCY shall appoint five persons to be members of each
26 Regional Computer Resource Center Board of Directors. The <—
27 ~~appointments shall be made based on recommendations of the~~
28 ~~agency.~~ The persons appointed shall represent five broad
29 areas: computer technology, teacher education, computer
30 education, elementary education and secondary education. No

1 less than two members of the Regional Computer Resource
2 Center Board shall be classroom teachers or building
3 principals.

4 (2) It shall be the duty of the regional board to
5 receive grant applications from school districts. Such
6 applications shall include plans for upgrading computer
7 education through two related and coordinated actions:
8 teacher training and computer hardware and software
9 acquisition and utilization.

10 ~~(i)~~ (3) Grant applications from school districts for teacher <—
11 training in computer education, COMPUTER HARDWARE ACQUISITION <—
12 AND COMPUTER SOFTWARE ACQUISITION shall be received by the
13 regional board. After reviewing applications, the regional
14 board shall ~~request an allocation from~~ FORWARD EACH <—
15 APPLICATION WITH THEIR COMMENTS TO the Pennsylvania Higher
16 Education Assistance Agency.

17 ~~(ii)~~ ~~Grant applications from school districts for~~ <—
18 ~~purchasing hardware and software necessary to supply~~
19 ~~programs designed by the applicants shall be received by~~
20 ~~the regional board. After reviewing applications, the~~
21 ~~regional board shall request an aggregate allocation from~~
22 ~~the Information Technology Education Board of the~~
23 ~~Department of Education. The grants to school districts~~
24 ~~made by the Regional Computer Resource Center shall~~
25 ~~reflect the aid ratio defined in the act of March 10,~~
26 ~~1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of~~
27 ~~1949, but shall not exceed \$50,000. Each school district~~
28 ~~applying shall be required to supply the balance of the~~
29 ~~funding necessary for its program; the balance may be~~
30 ~~supplied in cash or in kind.~~

