

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2359 Session of
2002

INTRODUCED BY STAIRS, COLAFELLA, MUNDY, SAYLOR, STEIL, SURRA,
M. BAKER, BROWNE, BUNT, CAPPELLI, L. I. COHEN, CREIGHTON,
CURRY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, J. EVANS, FAIRCHILD, FLEAGLE, GEIST,
GORDNER, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HERMAN, HESS, HORSEY, JOSEPHS,
KREBS, LAUGHLIN, MANN, MARSICO, McCALL, McILHATTAN, MELIO,
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ROBINSON, ROEBUCK, SAINATO, SATHER, SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL,
SHANER, B. SMITH, STEELMAN, E. Z. TAYLOR, TRELLO, TRICH,
WALKO, WANSACZ, G. WRIGHT AND YUDICHAK, FEBRUARY 11, 2002

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 11, 2002

AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment of the Office of Community,
2 Business and Education Partnerships and its powers and
3 duties.

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 Keystone
8 Community, Business and Education Partnership Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Office." The Office of Community, Business and Education
14 Partnerships established by this act.

15 "Private sector." Any private business, corporation,

1 individual, trade association, foundation, federally or locally
2 supported grant program and other non-Commonwealth source
3 operating for profit or not-for-profit.

4 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, joint
5 school or area vocational-technical school.

6 Section 3. Declaration of policy.

7 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

8 (1) This Commonwealth's system of public education would
9 be strengthened by greater collaboration between the private
10 sector and school entities.

11 (2) Where collaborative efforts presently exist,
12 schools, teachers, students and the community at large
13 benefit from the support, recognition and expertise provided
14 by the business community.

15 (3) Businesses benefit by helping to prepare a pool of
16 qualified potential employees.

17 (4) Communities benefit by having better schools which
18 enhance the quality of life, provide greater community
19 stability and improve the economic climate.

20 (5) There is presently no entity at the State level
21 responsible for the collection and dissemination of
22 information regarding partnerships between the private sector
23 and school entities.

24 Section 4. Office of Community, Business and Education

25 Partnerships.

26 (a) Establishment.--The Secretary of Education shall
27 establish the Office of Community, Business and Education
28 Partnerships within the Department of Education.

29 (b) Purposes.--The purposes of the office are to encourage
30 and enhance partnerships between school entities and the private

1 sector, to function as a clearinghouse for material
2 dissemination and to provide training and consultation to school
3 districts as appropriate.

4 (c) Powers and duties.--The office shall have the following
5 powers and duties:

6 (1) To develop recommendations for the establishment of
7 private sector partnerships with school entities.

8 (2) To establish a network for the exchange of expertise
9 and information about private sector and school entity
10 partnerships throughout this Commonwealth.

11 (3) To provide technical assistance and workshops to
12 facilitate the exchange of information and expertise about
13 partnership programs.

14 (4) To establish a method of assessing the impact of
15 private sector and school entity partnerships on improving
16 the quality of education.

17 (5) To identify exemplary partnership programs,
18 materials and models to be disseminated to school entities.

19 (6) To establish appropriate award programs to recognize
20 businesses for their contributions to improving education and
21 to recognize exemplary partnership programs.

22 (7) To prepare and submit an annual report to the
23 General Assembly and the Governor which includes the
24 following:

25 (i) A summary of the status of private sector and
26 school entity partnership programs.

27 (ii) Recommendations to improve the efficiency and
28 promote the growth of private sector and school entity
29 partnerships.

30 (8) To perform other duties to carry into effect the

- 1 purposes under subsection (b).
- 2 Section 5. Effective date.
- 3 This act shall take effect immediately.