

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1537 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY O'NEILL, ARMSTRONG, CALTAGIRONE, CREIGHTON,
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MAY 5, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 5, 2005

AN ACT

1 Establishing a program for obtaining information from
2 institutions of higher education in a uniform manner to
3 permit statistical comparison; and imposing additional powers
4 and duties on the Department of Education and institutions of
5 higher education.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Teacher
10 Assessment Report Card Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

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

15 "Department." The Department of Education of the
16 Commonwealth.

17 "Institution of higher education." A public or private
18 college or university offering a teacher education program

1 approved by the Department of Education.

2 "Report card." The teacher assessment report card identified
3 in section 4 (relating to teacher assessment report card).

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

5 "Teacher assessment test for initial certification." The
6 assessment test as defined by 22 Pa. Code § 49.18(a)(2)(ii)
7 (relating to assessment).

8 Section 3. Duties of institutions of higher education.

9 (a) General rule.--Each institution of higher education
10 shall complete a report card in accordance with this act and on
11 a uniform form prepared and furnished by the department.

12 (b) Time.--The report card form shall be completed by each
13 institution of higher education for each academic year and
14 forwarded to the department on a schedule to be established by
15 the secretary.

16 Section 4. Teacher assessment report card.

17 (a) General rule.--The teacher assessment report card shall
18 contain information to assist teachers, students and the general
19 public in assessing, evaluating and comparing the quality of
20 education being provided to higher education students in
21 approved teacher education programs.

22 (b) Access to report cards.--The secretary shall make use of
23 modern technology to assure wide access and distribution of the
24 information provided on the report cards and shall include such
25 information as the secretary in his discretion deems necessary
26 to assist the general public in assessing, evaluating, comparing
27 and understanding the quality of education being provided
28 students in institutions of higher education.

29 (c) Contents.--The report card form shall state that the
30 information is provided for the purpose of presenting an

overview of the applicable institution of higher education and shall not be deemed to create a set of standards relating to the quality of education being offered in that institution of higher education and other institutions of higher education. This information shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Number of students enrolled in approved postsecondary teacher education programs in an academic year.

(2) Number of students who applied or were accepted to take the teacher assessment test for initial certification in that academic year.

(3) Number of students who passed the teacher assessment test for initial certification after the first attempt.

(4) Number of students who passed the teacher assessment test for initial certification after multiple attempts.

(5) Average number of attempts taken in order to pass the teacher assessment test for initial certification.

(6) Report of the teacher assessment test for initial certification results by the individual licensure area.

(7) Such other information as deemed necessary by the department.

Section 5. Duties of department.

(a) Form development.--The department shall prepare a uniform report card form and distribute that form to each Pennsylvania institution of higher education no later than April 15 of each academic year. The form shall include a description of each requirement in section 4 (relating to teacher assessment report card) written in plain English.

(b) Statewide report.--

(1) Upon receipt of the completed report card information from the individual institution of higher

1 education by a date certain established by the department,
2 the department shall compile a Statewide report for the
3 academic year for which data is supplied and the prior two
4 academic years, including a listing of each institution of
5 higher education and the information required under section
6 4.

7 (2) For purposes of the Statewide report, the department
8 shall not be required to compile or distribute data for the
9 prior two academic years until such time as the data becomes
10 available.

11 (3) (i) The department shall make available to each
12 institution of higher education a draft copy of its
13 Statewide report before initiating the final report
14 required by subsection (c).

15 (ii) An institution of higher education shall have
16 20 days from receipt of its draft Statewide report to
17 make any necessary changes and submit such changes to the
18 department. Any change made to a draft Statewide report
19 by an institution of higher education shall be
20 accompanied by documentation proving the need for the
21 change.

22 (4) The information received under section 4 shall be
23 deemed to be accurate for any institution of higher education
24 that does not resubmit its draft Statewide report to the
25 department on a timely basis.

26 (c) Release of final report.--No later than January 1
27 following the academic year for which report card data has been
28 furnished by the institutions of higher education, except that
29 for the 2005-2006 academic year when the date shall be February
30 1, the department shall furnish each institution of higher

1 education with its completed report card. The report card shall
2 include information as specified in section 4 and the Statewide
3 report as specified in subsection (b).

4 Section 6. Dissemination of report card.

5 (a) Students.--No later than March 1, except for the 2005-
6 2006 academic year when the date shall be April 1, each
7 institution of higher education shall make the applicable report
8 card available to postsecondary students in approved teacher
9 education programs either at the office of the dean or head of
10 the teacher education program of the respective institution of
11 higher education or by posting the report card on the campus
12 Internet website.

13 (b) General public.--The department shall publicize the
14 Statewide results as defined in section 5(c) (relating to duties
15 of department) by posting the report on the department's
16 Internet website no later than March 1, except for the 2005-2006
17 academic year when the date shall be April 1.

18 (c) General Assembly.--The department shall forward a copy
19 of the Statewide results of the report card to the chairperson
20 and minority chairperson of the Education Committee of the
21 Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
22 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

23 Section 7. Cause of action.

24 Nothing in this act shall be construed as establishing cause
25 of action for educational malpractice by students.

26 Section 8. Additional requirements.

27 (a) State Board of Education.--The State Board of Education
28 shall adopt policies, standards, rules and regulations necessary
29 for the proper administration and implementation of this act.

30 (b) Department of Education.--The Department of Education

1 shall provide technical assistance to institutions of higher
2 education in completing forms as required by section 3(a)
3 (relating to duties of institutions of higher education).

4 Section 9. Effective date.

5 This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, or immediately,
6 whichever is later.