

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 87

Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY YOUNGBLOOD, CRUZ, STERN, BELFANTI, WHEATLEY,
COHEN, BLACKWELL, JAMES AND FABRIZIO, JANUARY 30, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 30, 2007

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," further providing for health services
6 and for dental examinations and dental hygiene services.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1402(a.1) and (e) of the act of March 10,
10 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
11 repealed and added July 15, 1957 (P.L.937, No.404) and amended
12 December 7, 1965 (P.L.1041, No.390), are amended and the section
13 is amended by adding subsections to read:

14 Section 1402. Health Services.--* * *

15 (a.1) Every child of school age shall be provided with
16 school nurse services: Provided, however, That the number of
17 pupils under the care of each school nurse shall not exceed [one
18 thousand five hundred (1,500)] seven hundred fifty (750).

19 * * *

1 (e) The school physicians of each district or joint board
2 shall make a medical examination and a comprehensive appraisal
3 of the health of every child of school age, (1) upon original
4 entry into school in the Commonwealth, (2) while in [sixth]
5 fifth grade, (3) while in [eleventh] eighth grade, and (4)
6 [prior to the issuance of a farm or domestic service permit
7 unless the child has been given a scheduled or special medical
8 examination within the preceding four months.] while in eleventh
9 grade. The health record of the child shall be made available to
10 the school physician at the time of the regularly scheduled
11 health appraisals.

12 * * *

13 (g) A child shall be eligible for practice or participation
14 in a sport only when there is on file with the school nurse a
15 certificate of consent for each sport which is signed by the
16 child's parent or guardian.

17 (h) (1) No child shall be eligible to represent the child's
18 high school in any interscholastic athletic contest unless the
19 child has been examined by a licensed physician of medicine or
20 osteopathic medicine, a certified school nurse practitioner or
21 physician assistant before the child's first sports season of
22 that academic year, and the physician, certified school nurse
23 practitioner or physician assistant has signed an examination
24 certificate.

25 (2) Before each subsequent sports season of the same
26 academic year, the child shall be reexamined or certified by a
27 licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine, a
28 certified school nurse practitioner or a physician assistant
29 that the child's condition is satisfactory before the child
30 commences to train or practice the intended sport, and the

1 physician, certified school nurse practitioner or physician
2 assistant shall sign the examination certificate.

3 (3) The examination for fall sports shall not be given
4 earlier than July 1. The examination, reexamination or
5 certification for all other sports shall not be given earlier
6 than six (6) weeks prior to the beginning of practice for each
7 applicable sport.

8 Section 2. Section 1403 of the act, amended August 27, 1963
9 (P.L.1380, No.535), is amended to read:

10 Section 1403. Dental Examinations and Dental Hygiene
11 Services.--(a) All children of school age in the Commonwealth,
12 (i) upon original entry into the school, (ii) while in the third
13 grade, [and] (iii) while in the seventh grade, and (iv) while in
14 the tenth grade, shall be given a dental examination by a school
15 dentist: Provided, however, That this requirement shall not
16 apply to those school districts or joint school boards which
17 have instituted a program of dental hygiene services as provided
18 in subsection (b) of this section.

19 (b) Any school district or joint school board may institute
20 a program of dental hygiene services for children of school age,
21 which program shall be approved by the Secretary of Health, and
22 for that purpose may employ dental hygienists.

23 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.