
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 259 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY D. EVANS, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CURRY,
DePASQUALE, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, HARHAI, HARPER, JAMES,
JOSEPHS, W. KELLER, KING, LEACH, MARSHALL, PARKER, PASHINSKI,
SHAPIRO, SOLOBAY, STURLA, THOMAS, WANSACZ, WHEATLEY AND
YOUNGBLOOD, FEBRUARY 6, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, FEBRUARY 6, 2007

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Performance Evaluation Commission
2 and providing for its powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Performance
7 Evaluation Act.

8 Section 2. Purpose.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) There is the need to continuously evaluate the
11 performance of the Commonwealth's programs and policies to
12 assure that tax dollars are spent in the most effective and
13 efficient manner possible.

14 (2) The citizens of this Commonwealth have the right to
15 know that State government is meeting their needs in a cost-
16 effective manner.

1 (3) Agencies of State government must be able to
2 demonstrate that their programs are meeting their goals and
3 objectives and are having a positive impact on this
4 Commonwealth and its citizens by becoming more focused,
5 concentrated and intensive in their performance evaluation
6 efforts both for the short term and the long term.

7 (4) Given the constrained nature of the fiscal resources
8 that will be available both now and into the foreseeable
9 future, only those programs that prove their worth can be
10 considered for continued funding.

11 Section 3. 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 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Performance Evaluation
16 Commission established in section 4.

17 Section 4. Establishing the Pennsylvania Performance Evaluation
18 Commission.

19 The Pennsylvania Performance Evaluation Commission is hereby
20 established to develop and implement a comprehensive system of
21 performance evaluation.

22 Section 5. Membership.

23 (a) Members.--The commission shall consist of the following
24 members:

25 (1) The Secretary of the Budget.

26 (2) The Secretary of Administration.

27 (3) The State Treasurer.

28 (4) The Auditor General.

29 (5) The chairman of the Legislative Budget and Finance
30 Committee.

1 (6) The chairman and the minority chairman of the
2 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

3 (7) The chairman and the minority chairman of the
4 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

5 (b) Chairman.--The members of the commission shall elect a
6 chairman at their first meeting.

7 Section 6. Powers and duties of commission.

8 (a) Meetings.--The commission shall meet as frequently as it
9 deems appropriate, but at least once during each month. The
10 Secretary of the Budget shall be responsible for calling the
11 initial meeting of the commission. The initial organizational
12 meeting of the commission shall take place within 30 days of the
13 effective date of this act.

14 (b) Resources.--The commission may utilize the staff and
15 resources of the General Assembly, any Commonwealth agency, and
16 any public or private institution which receives Commonwealth
17 funds. The General Assembly, Commonwealth agencies and public or
18 private institutions receiving Commonwealth funds shall provide
19 staff and resources as requested at no cost to the commission.
20 The commission may use the space, staff and resources of the
21 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to prepare its final
22 report.

23 (c) Objectives.--The commission shall evaluate the current
24 structure and system of performance evaluation in the
25 Commonwealth and develop and implement a comprehensive and
26 coordinated system of program evaluation that includes
27 monitoring, impact assessment, examination of cost effectiveness
28 and cost-benefit analysis. In so doing, the commission shall
29 take into consideration the effectiveness of the existing
30 systems, including:

- 1 (1) Program evaluations.
- 2 (2) Preaudits.
- 3 (3) Program measures.
- 4 (4) Financial audits.
- 5 (5) Budget process.
- 6 (6) Legislative oversight.
- 7 (7) Performance audits.

8 (d) Report to General Assembly.--Within 90 days of the
9 effective date of this act, the commission shall identify those
10 programs most in need of performance evaluation. Within 360 days
11 of the effective date of this act, the commission shall submit
12 to the General Assembly a performance evaluation report for each
13 of the programs identified above with specific recommendations,
14 including whether:

- 15 (1) To continue or discontinue the program.
- 16 (2) To improve its practices and procedures.
- 17 (3) To modify specific program strategies and
18 techniques.

19 (e) Comprehensive report.--The commission shall issue to the
20 Governor and the General Assembly a comprehensive report no
21 later than one year after the effective date of this act
22 containing its recommendations for:

- 23 (1) Implementing a systematic means of evaluating
24 programs in order to make State government in Pennsylvania
25 more effective and cost efficient.
- 26 (2) Expanding the use of existing oversight processes
27 and the role of existing oversight agencies.
- 28 (3) Encouraging greater participation of legislative
29 committees in the evaluation process.
- 30 (4) Ensuring systematic scheduling of program

1 evaluations.

2 (5) Encouraging greater use of evaluation findings by
3 policy decision makers.

4 (f) State Employee Cost Reduction Incentive Program.--Within
5 180 days of the effective date of this act, the commission shall
6 develop and implement a State Employee Cost Reduction Incentive
7 Program of meritorious service awards to State employees who
8 propose procedures or ideas which are adopted and which will
9 result in eliminating or reducing State expenditures or
10 improving operations, provided such proposals are placed in
11 effect. In developing and implementing the program, the
12 commission shall consider at least all of the following:

13 (1) Elements to be included on a prepared suggestion
14 form to be completed by State employees.

15 (2) Procedures for reviewing and evaluating completed
16 suggestion forms.

17 (3) Rewards for adopted suggestions that include cash
18 awards and/or paid annual leave.

19 Section 7. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect immediately.