

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 713 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY FLECK, ROEBUCK, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BOBACK, BOYD, BRENNAN, CAUSER, CREIGHTON, DENLINGER, DeWEESE, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HUTCHINSON, JOSEPHS, M. KELLER, W. KELLER, KORTZ, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, McILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MILLARD, MILNE, MURT, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PICKETT, RAPP, SEIP, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STERN, STEVENSON, THOMAS, VULAKOVICH, WAGNER, WALKO, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 4, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 4, 2009

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Science Technology Partnership Program;
2 establishing the Science Education Innovation Grants Program;
3 and providing for State grants.

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 Science
8 Technology 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 "Department." The Department of Education of the
14 Commonwealth.

1 "Higher education institution." Any public or private two-
2 year or four-year or higher postsecondary institution in this
3 Commonwealth that has been accredited at the college level by an
4 accrediting agency recognized by the Federal Secretary of
5 Education.

6 "Nonpublic school." A nonpublic kindergarten, elementary
7 school or secondary school at which the compulsory attendance
8 requirements of the Commonwealth may be met and which meets the
9 applicable requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
10 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

11 "Partnership." A science technology partnership.

12 "Program." The Science Technology Partnership Program.

13 "Public school." Any school owned or operated by a public
14 school district established under the act of March 10, 1949
15 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
16 including any school established under Article XVII-A of the
17 Public School Code of 1949.

18 "Science technology educational organizations." A nonprofit
19 corporation as defined in section 510(3) of the Internal Revenue
20 Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 1 et seq.) that
21 provides science, environmental science and technology
22 instruction to public schools, nonpublic schools and school
23 districts in this Commonwealth.

24 "Scientific or technical equipment." Technical or electronic
25 equipment used in teaching science courses, including laboratory
26 equipment. The equipment may include equipment that is not
27 routinely used in the teaching of science but that is commonly
28 used in the workplace and the fields of health, environment,
29 scientific research, biology, chemistry, geology or other earth
30 sciences, physics or any other scientific field.

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

2 Section 3. Science Technology Partnership Program.

3 (a) Establishment.--The Science Technology Partnership
4 Program is established. The purpose of the program shall be to
5 improve science education in public schools, school districts
6 and nonpublic schools that are members of science technology
7 partnerships by:

8 (1) Making scientific or technical equipment available
9 to students.

10 (2) Augmenting the science curriculum.

11 (3) Providing additional professional development
12 opportunities to educators in the sciences.

13 (b) Administration.--The department shall administer a grant
14 program that awards grants to qualified higher education
15 institutions that are members of the partnerships.

16 (c) Criteria for funding.--To implement the program, the
17 department shall request proposals from higher education
18 institutions that are members of partnerships and may award
19 grants to such institutions that meet all of the following
20 criteria:

21 (1) Have established a partnership as defined in section
22 4 and provided a copy of the partnership agreement to the
23 department.

24 (2) Demonstrate how the partnership will make science
25 technology equipment available to students enrolled in public
26 and nonpublic schools that are partnership members.

27 (3) Demonstrate how the partnership will augment the
28 science curriculum of public and nonpublic schools that are
29 partnership members.

30 (4) Demonstrate how the partnership will provide

1 additional professional development opportunities to
2 educators employed by public and nonpublic schools that are
3 partnership members.

4 (5) Have adopted a proposed budget describing the
5 scientific and technical equipment that will be purchased or
6 leased with grant funds.

7 (d) Grant awards.--The department shall award grants in
8 amounts not to exceed \$200,000 per subject area, including
9 chemistry, biology, physics, earth and space, for each qualified
10 applicant higher education institution. Grants shall be used for
11 the purchase or lease of scientific or technical equipment and
12 for the development of programs of instruction for members of a
13 partnership.

14 Section 4. Science technology partnerships.

15 (a) Establishment.--A higher education institution may form
16 a partnership with three or more public and nonpublic schools or
17 school districts.

18 (b) Partnership agreement.--The higher education institution
19 and the public schools, nonpublic schools or school districts
20 shall enter into a written agreement defining the
21 responsibilities of the partnership members. The agreement shall
22 include all of the following:

23 (1) The responsibilities of the higher education
24 institution in providing services to each partnership member.

25 (2) The responsibilities of the public schools,
26 nonpublic schools or school districts in coordinating with
27 the higher education institution.

28 (3) A description of the scientific or technical
29 equipment that shall be provided to each partnership member.

30 (4) A description of the program of instruction that

1 will be provided to each partnership member by the higher
2 education institution.

3 (5) The courses of science instruction and grade levels
4 that will be augmented by scientific or technical equipment
5 through the partnership and how scientific or technical
6 equipment will be used to augment such courses of
7 instruction.

8 (6) The manner in which access to scientific or
9 technical equipment will be provided to students and
10 teachers.

11 (7) The professional development activities that will be
12 provided to science teachers employed by partnership members.

13 (c) Forward to department.--To be eligible to participate in
14 the program, a partnership must forward a certified copy of its
15 partnership agreement to the department.

16 Section 5. Powers and duties of department.

17 The department shall promulgate rules, regulations and
18 procedures necessary to implement the program.

19 Section 6. Annual report.

20 The secretary shall annually submit a report on the program
21 to the Governor, the chairman and minority chairman of the
22 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority
23 chairman of the Education Committee of the House of
24 Representatives. The report shall include all of the following
25 information:

26 (1) A description of the types of the partnerships
27 created.

28 (2) The number of higher education institutions, public
29 schools, nonpublic schools and school districts participating
30 in the program as members of the partnerships.

1 (3) The number of public and nonpublic school students
2 participating in the program.

3 (4) The dollar amount of grants awarded to each higher
4 education institution and a summary of the institution's
5 expenditures on services related to the partnership.

6 (5) An assessment of the educational impact of the
7 program on the scientific knowledge of students participating
8 in the program.

9 Section 7. Science Education Innovation Grants Program.

10 (a) Establishment.--The Science Education Innovation Grants
11 Program is established. The department shall administer the
12 Science Education Innovation Grants Program.

13 (b) Grant recipients.--Science Education Innovation Grants
14 shall be awarded by the department to school districts, higher
15 education institutions and science technology educational
16 organizations that provide innovative science, environmental
17 science and technology programs with hands-on, inquiry-based
18 learning for students in public schools, school districts and
19 nonpublic schools. No more than 10% of the total grant funding
20 awarded in any one school year may be awarded to a school
21 district, higher education institution or science technology
22 educational organization.

23 (c) Contents of application.--In its application to the
24 department for grant funding, an eligible grant recipient under
25 this section shall include:

26 (1) The public schools, school districts and nonpublic
27 schools where the program of instruction will be provided.

28 (2) A description of the program of instruction and
29 grade levels of students that will be provided instruction.

30 (3) A description of any scientific or technical

1 equipment that will be used to augment instruction.

2 (4) If applicable, the manner in which access to
3 scientific or technical equipment will be provided to
4 students and teachers.

5 (5) If applicable, the professional development
6 activities that will be provided to science teachers.

7 (6) The qualitative and quantitative assessment measures
8 that will be used to determine whether the program has
9 improved the academic performance of students receiving the
10 program of instruction.

11 (d) Information.--The department shall disseminate to all
12 public schools, school districts and nonpublic schools
13 information about the innovative science, environmental science
14 and technology programs awarded grants under this section so
15 that these programs may be replicated by public schools, school
16 districts and nonpublic schools.

17 (e) Annual report.--The secretary shall annually submit a
18 report on the Science Education Innovation Grants Program to the
19 Governor, the chairman and minority chairman of the Education
20 Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman
21 of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives. The
22 report shall include all of the following information:

23 (1) The number, names and amounts of grants awarded to
24 public schools, nonpublic schools and public school
25 districts, higher education institutions and science
26 technology educational organizations receiving grants.

27 (2) The number of public and nonpublic school students
28 participating in the program.

29 (3) For each grant recipient, a summary description of
30 its innovative science education program and any qualitative

1 or quantitative academic results due to the program.

2 (4) An assessment of the impact of the grants on the
3 scientific knowledge of students participating in the
4 program.

5 Section 20. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect immediately.