
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1697 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY KILLION, FABRIZIO, FARRY, FREEMAN, GEIST,
GINGRICH, O'NEILL, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, SANTARSIERO
AND WAGNER, JUNE 20, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 20, 2011

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 program of
6 continuing professional education.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1205.2(a), (d) and (o) of the act of
10 March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code
11 of 1949, added November 23, 1999 (P.L.529, No.48) and amended
12 July 13, 2005 (P.L.226, No.46), are amended to read:

13 Section 1205.2. Program of Continuing Professional
14 Education.--(a) A continuing professional education program is
15 hereby established for professional educators, the satisfactory
16 completion of which is required to maintain active
17 certification. Except as provided in subsection (j.1), the
18 continuing professional education program shall require the
19 satisfactory completion of continuing professional education

1 every five (5) years, which shall include:

2 (1) six (6) credits of collegiate study, including at least
3 three (3) hours of child abuse recognition and reporting
4 training;

5 (2) six (6) credits of continuing professional education
6 courses, including at least three (3) hours of child abuse
7 recognition and reporting training;

8 (3) one hundred eighty (180) hours of continuing
9 professional education programs, activities or learning
10 experiences, including at least three (3) hours of child abuse
11 recognition and reporting training; or

12 (4) any combination of collegiate studies, continuing
13 professional education courses, or other programs, activities or
14 learning experiences equivalent to one hundred eighty (180)
15 hours, including at least three (3) hours of child abuse
16 recognition and reporting training.

17 * * *

18 (d) In order to ensure that credits and hours of continuing
19 professional education are of high quality and designed to
20 significantly advance the goals of improving and updating the
21 educational skills of professional educators in this
22 Commonwealth, the department shall develop and implement
23 guidelines to approve certain providers of continuing
24 professional education programs. The guidelines shall include a
25 process to approve:

26 (1) providers of collegiate studies;

27 (2) providers of professional education courses;

28 (3) providers of continuing professional education programs,
29 activities or learning experiences, provided, the department, a
30 professional educator's school entity or a provider approved as

1 part of the school entity's professional education plan need not
2 be approved by the department; [and]

3 (4) providers included as part of the professional education
4 plan of a school entity for use by a school entity's
5 professional education committee[.]; and

6 (5) providers of child abuse recognition and reporting
7 training, provided, the guidelines for providers of child abuse
8 recognition and reporting training shall be approved by the
9 Department of Public Welfare, insofar as it relates to the
10 content of the Child Protective Services Law under 23 Pa.C.S.
11 Ch. 63 (relating to child protective services).

12 * * *

13 (o) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
14 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
15 subsection:

16 "Approved provider" is an institution of higher education,
17 school entity, individual, corporation, partnership, limited
18 liability company or association approved by the department to
19 provide continuing professional education credits or hours under
20 this section. Provided, a school entity may approve a provider
21 of continuing professional education credits or hours in
22 accordance with department guidelines.

23 "Area of a professional educator's assignment or
24 certification" shall mean any component of the education
25 profession as it relates to the current job title or description
26 of the professional educator or to any area of certification
27 listed on the professional employe's Pennsylvania certification
28 or to the type of certificate or endorsement held by the
29 professional educator.

30 "Child abuse recognition and reporting training" shall mean

1 continuing professional education courses that provide training
2 in child abuse recognition and reporting under 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63
3 (relating to child protective services). This term shall include
4 courses that are Internet based or are provided through other
5 distance communications systems.

6 "Collegiate studies" shall mean a formal program or course of
7 study at an institution of higher education leading to the award
8 of academic credit.

9 "Compliance period" shall mean the period of time in which a
10 professional educator must satisfactorily complete continuing
11 professional education as required under subsection (a) and
12 which concludes every five years beginning:

13 (1) July 1, 2000, for those professional educators who were
14 issued a State certificate prior to July 1, 2000; or

15 (2) on the date on which the professional educator is issued
16 a State certificate for those professional educators who were
17 certified after July 1, 2000.

18 "Continuing professional education courses" shall mean
19 courses for credit, other than collegiate studies, conducted by
20 providers approved by the department.

21 "Professional educator" shall mean an individual who holds a
22 Pennsylvania teacher, educational specialist or administrative
23 certification or letter of eligibility.

24 "School entity" shall mean a school district, an intermediate
25 unit, a joint school district, an area vocational-technical
26 school, a charter school, the Scotland School for Veterans'
27 Children and the Scranton School for the Deaf or any of these
28 acting jointly.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.