

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 555 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY SIMMONS, YOUNGBLOOD, GALLOWAY, HEFFLEY, KORTZ, STEPHENS, EVANKOVICH, BROOKS, MACKENZIE, KAUFFMAN, CAUSER, MICOZZIE, BARRAR, KIRKLAND, BIZZARRO, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, AUMENT, GINGRICH AND HICKERNELL, FEBRUARY 6, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 6, 2013

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," in transportation of pupils, further
6 providing for when transportation provided.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1361 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
11 amended May 11, 1979 (P.L.26, No.7), is amended to read:

12 Section 1361. When Provided.--(1) The board of school
13 directors in any school district may, out of the funds of the
14 district, provide for the free transportation of any resident
15 pupil to and from the kindergarten, elementary school, or
16 secondary school in which he is lawfully enrolled, provided that
17 such school is not operated for profit and is located within the
18 district boundaries or outside the district boundaries at a
19 distance not exceeding ten miles by the nearest public highway,

1 except that such ten-mile limit shall not apply to area
2 vocational technical schools which regularly serve eligible
3 district pupils or to special schools and classes approved by
4 the Department of Education, and to and from any points within
5 or without the Commonwealth in order to provide field trips for
6 any purpose connected with the educational pursuits of the
7 pupils. When provision is made by a board of school directors
8 for the transportation of public school pupils to and from such
9 schools or to and from any points within or without the
10 Commonwealth in order to provide field trips as herein provided,
11 the board of school directors shall also make identical
12 provision for the free transportation of pupils who regularly
13 attend nonpublic kindergarten, elementary and high schools not
14 operated for profit to and from such schools or to and from any
15 points within or without the Commonwealth in order to provide
16 field trips as herein provided. Such transportation of pupils
17 attending nonpublic schools shall be provided during regular
18 school hours on such dates and periods that the nonpublic school
19 not operated for profit is in regular session, according to the
20 school calendar officially adopted by the directors of the same
21 in accordance with provisions of law. The board of school
22 directors shall provide such transportation whenever so required
23 by any of the provisions of this act or of any other act of
24 Assembly.

25 (2) The board of school directors in any school district
26 may, if the board deems it to the best interest of the school
27 district, for the purposes of transporting pupils as required or
28 authorized by any of the provisions of this act or of any other
29 act of the Assembly, appropriate funds for urban common carrier
30 mass transportation purposes from current revenues to urban

1 common carrier mass transportation authorities to assist the
2 authorities to meet costs of operation, maintenance, capital
3 improvements, and debt service. Said contributions shall not be
4 subject to reimbursement by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

5 (3) In any school district where transportation is provided,
6 the school district shall provide a link to the Megan's Law
7 website under 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.28 (relating to public Internet
8 website) on any communication related to transportation
9 distributed to students, parents or the public.

10 (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations,
11 including qualifications of school bus drivers, to govern the
12 transportation of school pupils.

13 (5) The board of school directors in a school district
14 shall, on its publicly accessible Internet website, regardless
15 of whether the school district transports students, provide a
16 link to the Megan's Law website under 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.28. The
17 link shall be prominently displayed on the school district's
18 home page.

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