

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1931 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY HACKETT, WHEATLEY, HEFFLEY, D. COSTA, LONGIETTI,
THOMAS, WATSON, MILLARD, KOTIK, REED, COHEN, GINGRICH,
ROEBUCK, MURT AND CALTAGIRONE, JANUARY 2, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 2, 2014

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," providing for Commonwealth secondary
6 school diploma.

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

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
11 section to read:

12 Section 1613.1. Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma.--(a)
13 Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section,
14 the Department of Education shall solicit proposals for the
15 establishment and implementation of at least two testing
16 programs under which individuals who do not possess a secondary
17 school diploma and are not enrolled in a public or nonpublic
18 school may obtain a Commonwealth secondary school diploma upon
19 earning a passing score as determined by the Department of

1 Education. The Department of Education shall at a minimum
2 publish notice of its intention to solicit proposals in the
3 Pennsylvania Bulletin and on its publicly accessible Internet
4 website.

5 (b) Within one year of the effective date of this section,
6 the Department of Education shall establish, implement and
7 maintain at least two testing programs under which individuals
8 may obtain a Commonwealth secondary school diploma.

9 (c) Each testing program established under subsection (b)
10 shall:

11 (1) be aligned with the rigor of Pennsylvania academic
12 standards;

13 (2) be available in both a paper-based and computer-based
14 testing format; and

15 (3) include multiple testing sections that may be taken on
16 separate dates.

17 (d) In establishing testing programs pursuant to subsection
18 (b), the Department of Education shall consider the
19 affordability and accessibility of testing programs to maximize
20 the ability of individuals to obtain a Commonwealth secondary
21 school diploma.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.