

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

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 19, 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~~ ONE COMPUTER-BASED HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY ASSESSMENT <--
17 AND AT LEAST ONE PAPER-BASED HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY ASSESSMENT
18 under which individuals who do not possess a secondary school
19 diploma and are not enrolled in a public or nonpublic school may

1 obtain a Commonwealth secondary school diploma upon earning a
2 passing score as determined by the Department of Education. The
3 Department of Education shall at a minimum publish notice of its
4 intention to solicit proposals in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and
5 on its publicly accessible Internet website.

6 (b) Within one year of the effective date of this section,
7 the Department of Education shall establish, implement and
8 maintain at least ~~two testing programs~~ ONE COMPUTER-BASED HIGH <--
9 SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY ASSESSMENT AND AT LEAST ONE PAPER-BASED HIGH
10 SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY ASSESSMENT under which individuals may obtain
11 a Commonwealth secondary school diploma.

12 (c) Each ~~testing program~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY ASSESSMENT <--
13 established under subsection (b) shall:

14 (1) be aligned with the rigor of Pennsylvania academic
15 standards; AND <--

16 ~~(2) be available in both a paper based and computer based~~ <--
17 ~~testing format; and~~

18 ~~(3)~~ (2) include multiple testing sections that may be taken <--
19 on separate dates.

20 (d) In establishing ~~testing programs~~ EACH HIGH SCHOOL <--
21 EQUIVALENCY ASSESSMENT pursuant to subsection (b), the
22 Department of Education shall consider the affordability and
23 accessibility of ~~testing programs~~ EACH HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY <--
24 ASSESSMENT to maximize the ability of individuals to obtain a
25 Commonwealth secondary school diploma.

26 (E) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE <--
27 THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION:

28 "COMMONWEALTH SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA" MEANS THE HIGH SCHOOL
29 EQUIVALENCY CREDENTIAL ISSUED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF
30 PENNSYLVANIA TO RESIDENTS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH WHO DO NOT

1 POSSESS A SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

2 "HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY ASSESSMENT" MEANS AN ASSESSMENT
3 DESIGNED TO CERTIFY THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT GRADUATED
4 FROM HIGH SCHOOL HAS OBTAINED A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL OF ACADEMIC
5 SKILL.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.