

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 943 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, COSTA, BLAKE, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER,
 FARNESE, FERLO, FONTANA, HUGHES, KASUNIC, KITCHEN, LEACH,
 SCHWANK, SMITH, SOLOBAY, STACK, TARTAGLIONE, TEPLITZ,
 WASHINGTON, WILEY, WILLIAMS, WOZNIAK AND YUDICHAK,
 MAY 15, 2013

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 15, 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," further providing for Keystone Exams;
 6 and providing for prohibition of certain actions affecting
 7 academic standards and assessments.

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

10 Section 1. Section 121 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
 11 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added June 30,
 12 2012 (P.L.684, No.82), is amended and the section is amended by
 13 adding a subsection to read:

14 Section 121. Keystone Exams.--[Subject](a) Except as
 15 provided in subsection (b), subject to annual appropriation, not
 16 later than the 2020-2021 school year, the Department of
 17 Education shall develop and implement Keystone Exams in the
 18 following subjects: algebra I, literature, biology, English
 19 composition, algebra II, geometry, United States history,

1 chemistry, civics and government and world history. The State
2 Board of Education shall promulgate regulations, subject to the
3 act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory
4 Review Act," necessary to implement this section.

5 (b) The Department of Education shall not implement
6 modifications to the Keystone Exams through the amendment or
7 modification of the provisions of 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to
8 academic standards and assessment) until the expiration of the
9 prohibition in section 2603-B.1.

10 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

11 Section 2603-B.1. Prohibition of Certain Actions Affecting
12 Academic Standards and Assessments.

13 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
14 the State Board of Education shall take no further action that
15 amends or modifies the provisions of 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating
16 to academic standards and assessment) regarding the
17 establishment and implementation of the Pennsylvania Common Core
18 Standards and the realignment of the State assessments to those
19 standards, including changes regarding the Keystone Exams
20 through such final-form regulations that are pending on the
21 effective date of this section.

22 (b) The prohibition established in subsection (a) shall
23 expire two (2) years following the completion of all of the
24 following:

25 (1) The State Board of Education and the Department of
26 Education shall coordinate to prepare a report on the potential
27 costs for school districts incurred under all final-form
28 regulations indicated in subsection (a). The department shall
29 post this report and all supporting documents and materials on
30 its publicly accessible Internet website.

1 (2) The State Board of Education and the Department of
2 Education shall coordinate to prepare all of the following and
3 the department shall post all of the following on its publicly
4 accessible Internet website:

5 (i) A summary of each final-form regulation indicated under
6 subsection (a).

7 (ii) A document that addresses all of the comments issued by
8 the Independent Regulatory Review Commission regarding each
9 final-form regulatory proposal indicated in subsection (b)(1).

10 (iii) The score for the Keystone Exams by school district
11 and school for the prior two (2) school years.

12 (iv) A report on the impact of the requirements contained in
13 each final-form regulation indicated in subsection (a) on the
14 potential for a decrease in total instructional time in school
15 districts resulting from the increase in time required to comply
16 through the preparation for and administration of the
17 assessments.

18 (3) The completion of a report by an advisory commission
19 reviewing the effectiveness of the current State Assessment
20 System and determining whether improvements to the State
21 Assessment System are required.

22 (c) The Department of Education shall publish in the next
23 Pennsylvania Bulletin the availability of each posting required
24 under this section.

25 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.