
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1036 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BOYLE, READSHAW, BISHOP, J. HARRIS, THOMAS,
SCHREIBER, COHEN, BIZZARRO, BROWNLEE, FREEMAN, O'BRIEN,
C. PARKER, DAVIDSON, V. BROWN, KORTZ, McNEILL, KINSEY, MURT,
DAWKINS, DEASY, ROEBUCK AND McCARTER, APRIL 20, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 20, 2015

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 school health services, further
6 providing for definitions; and providing for school
7 counseling services and grant program.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1401 of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended by adding a clause to read:

13 Section 1401. Definitions.--As used in this article--

14 * * *

15 (13) "School counselor" means a person who holds a valid
16 elementary and secondary school counselor certificate issued by
17 the Department of Education and is employed by a school district
18 or joint school board as a school counselor to provide
19 counseling services, including, but not limited to, family and

1 academic problems, career planning, course schedules and problem
2 solving around course selection and scheduling, conducting
3 groups regarding family changes, social skills and other related
4 issues, chemical dependency prevention and early intervention
5 activities, crisis intervention and mental health counseling.

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

7 Section 1402.1. School Counseling Services and Grant

8 Program.--(a) Beginning two years after the effective date of
9 this section, every child of school age shall be provided with
10 school counseling services by a school counselor. The number of
11 pupils under the care of each school counselor shall not exceed
12 three hundred seventy-five for kindergarten through the eighth
13 grade and three hundred twenty-five for the ninth through
14 twelfth grades.

15 (b) The Department of Education shall establish and
16 administer a program to award grants to school districts for
17 hiring and maintaining school counselors in compliance with
18 subsection (a). The grants shall be awarded by giving priority
19 to school districts with the highest student-to-counselor
20 ratios. The grants shall be funded by appropriations and moneys
21 made available to the Department of Education. The Department of
22 Education shall promulgate regulations to implement this
23 subsection.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.