

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1159 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, SAYLOR, CUTLER, OBERLANDER, BAKER, BLOOM, COHEN, DRISCOLL, FEE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GREINER, PHILLIPS-HILL, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, MENTZER, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MURT, PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW, TOEPEL, TOPPER, TRUITT, WATSON, ZIMMERMAN AND GILLEN, MAY 11, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 11, 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 reimbursements by Commonwealth and
 6 between school districts, establishing the Emergency Basic
 7 Education Subsidy Fund; and providing for basic education
 8 subsidy continuation funding.

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

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

14 Section 2599.6. Emergency Basic Education Subsidy Fund.--(a)
 15 The Emergency Basic Education Subsidy Fund is established as a
 16 separate fund in the State Treasury. The money of the fund is
 17 appropriated on a continuing basis to carry out the provisions
 18 of this section.

19 (b) If legislation providing an appropriation for the basic

1 education subsidy is not enacted by August 15, the State
2 Treasurer shall periodically transfer unappropriated,
3 unrestricted General Fund money, to the extent that the funds
4 are available, to the Emergency Basic Education Subsidy Fund.
5 The transfers shall be up to the dollar amounts and at the times
6 as necessary to meet the requirements of section 2517(c).

7 (c) If the Governor fails to certify revenue estimates under
8 section 618 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known
9 as "The Administrative Code of 1929," for the current fiscal
10 year the Secretary of Revenue shall certify to the State
11 Treasurer each time a transfer is needed under subsection (a)
12 that there is adequate unappropriated, unrestricted General Fund
13 money to make the transfer.

14 (d) (1) The Secretary of Education shall draw a warrant on
15 the State Treasurer in favor of each district for the amount to
16 which the district is entitled, to meet each basic education
17 subsidy payment to the school districts pursuant to the payment
18 schedule under section 2517(c).

19 (2) Payments made to each school district shall be in the
20 same amount as provided in the previous year.

21 (e) Transfers provided under this section shall only be in
22 effect during the time in which no basic education subsidy
23 appropriation has been enacted and shall be made only in the
24 amount necessary to meet each basic education subsidy payment to
25 the school districts pursuant to the payment schedule under
26 section 2517(c).

27 (f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act, the
28 board of school directors of each school district may reopen the
29 board's budget to reflect funding provided under this section.

30 Section 2. This act shall apply to fiscal years beginning

1 after June 30, 2015.

2 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.