
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1748 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MAHONEY, THOMAS, BISHOP, BURNS, TAYLOR, ROZZI,
READSHAW, KILLION, MILLARD, McNEILL, V. BROWN, O'BRIEN,
KOTIK, YOUNGBLOOD, MURT, GROVE, COHEN, HARHAI, D. COSTA AND
DEAN, DECEMBER 9, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, DECEMBER 9, 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 terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for subjects of instruction and Flag Code
7 and for alcohol, chemical and tobacco abuse program.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1511 of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
12 amended July 31, 1968 (P.L.1020, No.301), is amended to read:

13 Section 1511. Subjects of Instruction; Flag Code.--In every
14 elementary public and private school, established and maintained
15 in this Commonwealth, the following subjects shall be taught, in
16 the English language and from English texts: English, including
17 spelling, reading and writing, arithmetic, geography, the
18 history of the United States and of Pennsylvania, civics,
19 including loyalty to the State and National Government, safety

1 education, and the humane treatment of birds and animals,
2 health, including physical education, and physiology, alcohol,
3 chemical and tobacco abuse prevention as provided under section
4 1547, music and art. Other subjects shall be taught in the
5 public elementary schools and also in the public high schools as
6 may be prescribed by the standards of the State Board of
7 Education. All such subjects, except foreign languages, shall be
8 taught in the English language and from English texts: Provided,
9 however, That, at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public
10 Instruction, the teaching of subjects in a language other than
11 English may be permitted as part of a sequence in foreign
12 language study or as part of a bilingual education program if
13 the teaching personnel are properly certified in the subject
14 fields. Each school district shall provide and distribute to
15 each pupil, enrolled in the eighth grade of the public schools,
16 one illustrated copy of the National Flag Code, and shall, from
17 time to time, make available such copies as are necessary for
18 replacements from year to year. It shall be the duty of each
19 teacher in the public schools to make such use of the code as
20 may, from time to time, seem proper.

21 Section 2. Section 1547(a) of the act, amended December 19,
22 1990 (P.L.1362, No.211), is amended and the section is amended
23 by adding subsections to read:

24 Section 1547. Alcohol, Chemical and Tobacco Abuse Program.--

25 (a) Beginning with school year 1991-1992 and each year
26 thereafter, each public school student shall receive mandatory
27 instruction in alcohol, chemical and tobacco abuse in every year
28 in every grade from kindergarten through grade twelve. [The]
29 Except as otherwise provided under subsection (a.1), the
30 instruction shall be integrated within the health course of

1 study required in accordance with the State Board of Education
2 regulations. In grades where health is offered, instruction may
3 also be integrated into other appropriate courses of study. In
4 grades where health is not offered, instruction shall be
5 integrated into an appropriate curriculum requirement as listed
6 in 22 Pa. Code § 5.4(b).

7 (1) This instruction:

8 (i) Shall be age appropriate.

9 (ii) Shall be sequential in method of study.

10 (iii) Shall discourage the use of alcohol, tobacco and
11 controlled substances.

12 (iv) Shall communicate that the use of illicit drugs and the
13 improper use of legally obtained drugs is wrong.

14 (2) School districts may utilize any appropriate public or
15 private materials, personnel and other resources in developing
16 and implementing this program of instruction. The Department of
17 Health, Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs, shall make
18 available information about appropriate curriculum materials
19 upon request of a school district. In developing its alcohol,
20 chemical and tobacco abuse instructional program, each school
21 district shall consult with the single county authority
22 designated by the Department of Health to provide drug and
23 alcohol services in the school district's area.

24 (a.1) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year and each
25 school year thereafter, in grades five through twelve, mandatory
26 instruction in alcohol, chemical and tobacco abuse shall be a
27 separate course of study from the health course of study.

28 * * *

29 (e.1) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, each school
30 district shall provide, as part of its in-service training,

1 programs for all instructors to recognize a student is using or
2 abusing alcohol, drugs, tobacco or dangerous controlled
3 substances and the responsibilities of an instructor who
4 suspects a student is using or abusing alcohol, drugs, tobacco
5 or dangerous controlled substances. To comply with this
6 requirement, a school district may utilize the programs made
7 available by the Department of Education or use other
8 alternative programs.

9 * * *

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