

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1795 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY TOOHIL, YOUNGBLOOD, BRADFORD, R. BROWN, BULLOCK, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, GROVE, KINSEY, MARSICO, McNEILL, MURT, NEILSON, PASHINSKI, PETRI, PICKETT, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHREIBER, SCHWEYER, THOMAS, VEREB, WARD AND WATSON, JANUARY 21, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 21, 2016

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 providing for instruction in observance of the birthday of  
7 the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

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

13 Section 1555. Instruction in Observance of the Birthday of  
14 the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.--(a) Beginning with the  
15 2016-2017 school year, each school entity shall provide  
16 instruction on the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther  
17 King, Jr., to students during the week of the third Monday in  
18 January in observance of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin  
19 Luther King, Jr. This instruction shall be designed to

1 communicate to students the profound legacy of the Rev. Dr.  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr., his commitment to social justice and  
3 his contributions to racial equality.

4 (b) The instruction required under subsection (a) may be  
5 offered as a separate instructional activity or may be  
6 integrated into an appropriate course of study.

7 (c) School entities may utilize any appropriate public or  
8 private materials, personnel or other resources in developing  
9 and implementing the instruction required under subsection (a).

10 (d) The Department of Education shall:

11 (1) Make available to school entities teacher curriculum  
12 materials and other available resources related to the life and  
13 work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the history of the  
14 American Civil Rights Movement and the movement's impact in the  
15 United States.

16 (2) Post the materials made available to school entities  
17 under paragraph (1) on its publicly accessible Internet website  
18 within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section.

19 (e) For the purposes of this section, the term "school  
20 entity" shall mean a school district, charter school, regional  
21 charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area  
22 vocational-technical school.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.