

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1906 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY SAYLOR, JAMES, SCHLOSSBERG, WATSON, WARD, STURLA, D. COSTA, MOUL, MAJOR, V. BROWN, FARRY AND DeLUCA, MARCH 17, 2016

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 13, 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 school directors, providing for~~
6 ~~school director training programs.~~

7 AMENDING THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), ENTITLED "AN <--
8 ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, INCLUDING CERTAIN
9 PROVISIONS APPLICABLE AS WELL TO PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL
10 SCHOOLS; AMENDING, REVISING, CONSOLIDATING AND CHANGING THE
11 LAWS RELATING THERETO," IN SCHOOL DIRECTORS, PROVIDING FOR
12 SCHOOL DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAMS.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

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

18 ~~Section 328. School Director Training Programs. (a)~~
19 ~~Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year and in each school year~~
20 ~~thereafter, each newly elected or appointed school director~~
21 ~~shall complete, during the first year of the school director's~~
22 ~~first term, a training program developed and made available by~~

~~1 the Department of Education, in consultation with a Statewide
2 organization representing school directors and a Statewide
3 organization representing school business officials, pertaining
4 to the skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a school
5 director. The training program shall consist of eight (8) hours
6 of instruction, to include, at a minimum, information regarding
7 the following:~~

~~8 (1) Instruction and academic programs.~~

~~9 (2) Personnel.~~

~~10 (3) Fiscal management.~~

~~11 (4) Operations.~~

~~12 (5) Governance.~~

~~13 (6) Ethics, to include the requirements under 65 Pa.C.S. Pt.
14 II (relating to accountability).~~

~~15 (b) Within one (1) year after each reelection or
16 reappointment to the board of school directors, each school
17 director shall complete an advanced training program developed
18 and offered by the Department of Education in consultation with
19 a Statewide organization representing school directors and a
20 Statewide organization representing school business officials.
21 The advanced training program shall consist of four (4) hours of
22 instruction, including information on relevant changes to
23 Federal and State public school law and regulations, fiscal
24 management and other information deemed appropriate by the
25 Department of Education, to enable the school director to serve
26 effectively.~~

~~27 (c) The Department of Education shall examine options for
28 providing the training programs required under this section
29 through methods such as online or other distance learning media
30 or through regional based training.~~

1 ~~(d) The training programs required under this section shall~~
2 ~~be developed and offered by the Department of Education at no~~
3 ~~cost to school districts or school directors. The Department of~~
4 ~~Education may approve training programs that fulfill the~~
5 ~~requirements of this section which can be provided by school~~
6 ~~districts, intermediate units or postsecondary institutions.~~

7 ~~(e) Each school director who is in office on the effective~~
8 ~~date of this section shall complete the training program~~
9 ~~required under subsection (a) by June 30, 2018.~~

10 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.~~

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 328. SCHOOL DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAMS.--(A)
15 BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2018, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH
16 NEWLY ELECTED OR APPOINTED SCHOOL DIRECTOR SHALL COMPLETE,
17 WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR'S FIRST TERM, A
18 TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH SHALL CONSIST OF EIGHT (8) HOURS OF
19 INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM, INFORMATION REGARDING THE
20 FOLLOWING:

21 (1) INSTRUCTION AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS.

22 (2) PERSONNEL.

23 (3) FISCAL MANAGEMENT.

24 (4) OPERATIONS.

25 (5) GOVERNANCE.

26 (6) ETHICS AND OPEN MEETINGS, TO INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENTS
27 UNDER 65 PA.C.S. PT. II (RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY).

28 (B) WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE TERM OF EACH REELECTION OR
29 REAPPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS, EACH SCHOOL
30 DIRECTOR SHALL COMPLETE AN ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH SHALL

1 CONSIST OF FOUR (4) HOURS OF INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING INFORMATION
2 ON RELEVANT CHANGES TO FEDERAL AND STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW AND
3 REGULATIONS, FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND OTHER INFORMATION DEEMED
4 APPROPRIATE TO ENABLE THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR TO SERVE EFFECTIVELY.

5 (C) THE TRAINING PROGRAMS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTIONS (A) AND
6 (B) SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, WHICH
7 SHALL CONTRACT WITH A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SCHOOL
8 DIRECTORS TO PREPARE AND OFFER THESE TRAINING PROGRAMS AT NO
9 COST TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS, SCHOOL DIRECTORS OR MEMBERS OF A
10 SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION. IN PREPARING THE TRAINING PROGRAMS
11 REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B), A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION
12 REPRESENTING SCHOOL DIRECTORS SHALL CONSULT WITH A STATEWIDE
13 ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS.

14 (D) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PRECLUDE A STATEWIDE
15 ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SCHOOL DIRECTORS FROM OFFERING
16 TRAINING PROGRAMS OR OTHER LEARNING ACTIVITIES OR OPPORTUNITIES
17 IN ADDITION TO THE TRAINING PROGRAMS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTIONS
18 (A) AND (B) AT AN ADDITIONAL COST.

19 (E) A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SCHOOL DIRECTORS
20 SHALL APPROVE ALTERNATIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT FULFILL THE
21 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION WHICH MAY BE PREPARED AND OFFERED
22 BY ENTITIES THAT MAY INCLUDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS, INTERMEDIATE
23 UNITS, POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER STATEWIDE
24 EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING
25 SCHOOL DIRECTORS SHALL POST ON ITS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET
26 WEBSITE ALL ALTERNATIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS APPROVED UNDER THIS
27 SUBSECTION.

28 (F) THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO MEMBERS OF A SCHOOL REFORM
29 COMMISSION ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 696, PROVIDED THAT THE
30 TRAINING PROGRAMS PROVIDED TO MEMBERS OF A SCHOOL REFORM

1 COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION REGARDING SECTIONS 693 AND
2 696 AND OTHER INFORMATION DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO ENABLE A MEMBER
3 OF A SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION TO SERVE EFFECTIVELY.

4 (G) (1) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2018, AND IN EACH YEAR
5 THEREAFTER, EACH NEWLY APPOINTED TRUSTEE OF A CHARTER SCHOOL
6 ENTITY SHALL COMPLETE, WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE TRUSTEE'S
7 FIRST YEAR OF SERVICE, A TRAINING PROGRAM PREPARED AND OFFERED
8 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN CONSULTATION WITH STATEWIDE
9 ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITIES PERTAINING TO
10 THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY TO SERVE AS A TRUSTEE. THE
11 TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL CONSIST OF EIGHT (8) HOURS OF
12 INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM, THE INFORMATION LISTED IN
13 SUBSECTION (A) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) AND (6) AND INFORMATION
14 CONCERNING ARTICLE XVII-A.

15 (2) DURING THE FIFTH YEAR OF A TRUSTEE'S SERVICE ON THE
16 BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND EVERY FOUR (4) YEARS THEREAFTER, EACH
17 TRUSTEE SHALL COMPLETE AN ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAM PREPARED AND
18 OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH
19 STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITIES.
20 THE ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL CONSIST OF FOUR (4) HOURS OF
21 INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON RELEVANT CHANGES TO
22 FEDERAL AND STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW, INCLUDING ARTICLE XVII-A,
23 AND REGULATIONS, FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND OTHER INFORMATION DEEMED
24 APPROPRIATE TO ENABLE THE TRUSTEE TO SERVE EFFECTIVELY.

25 (3) THE TRAINING PROGRAMS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPHS (1) AND
26 (2) SHALL BE PROVIDED AT NO COST TO CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITIES OR
27 CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITY TRUSTEES. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
28 SHALL APPROVE ALTERNATIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT FULFILL THE
29 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION WHICH MAY BE PROVIDED BY SCHOOL
30 DISTRICTS, INTERMEDIATE UNITS, POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS,

1 STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITIES OR
2 OTHER STATEWIDE EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT OF
3 EDUCATION SHALL POST ON ITS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE
4 ALL ALTERNATIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS APPROVED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.

5 (4) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION, "CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITY"
6 SHALL MEAN A CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OR CYBER
7 CHARTER SCHOOL.

8 (H) ANY ENTITY PROVIDING TRAINING PROGRAMS REQUIRED UNDER
9 THIS SECTION SHALL EXAMINE OPTIONS FOR PROVIDING THESE TRAINING
10 PROGRAMS THROUGH METHODS SUCH AS ONLINE OR OTHER DISTANCE
11 LEARNING MEDIA OR THROUGH REGIONALLY BASED TRAINING.

12 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.