
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2044 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, BULLOCK, MCCLINTON AND SAVAGE, MAY 9, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 9, 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 charter schools, further providing
6 for definitions and providing for Pennsylvania Charter School
7 Oversight Board.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1703-A 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 definition to read:

13 Section 1703-A. Definitions.--As used in this article,

14 * * *

15 "Oversight Board" shall mean the Pennsylvania Charter School
16 Oversight Board established under section 1733-A.

17 * * *

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

19 Section 1733-A. Pennsylvania Charter School Oversight
20 Board.--(a) The Pennsylvania Charter School Oversight Board is
21 established. The Oversight Board shall consist of the following

1 members:

2 (1) The chairperson of the Education Committee of the
3 Senate.

4 (2) The minority chairperson of the Education Committee of
5 the Senate.

6 (3) The chairperson of the Education Committee of the House
7 of Representatives.

8 (4) The minority chairperson of the Education Committee of
9 the House of Representatives.

10 (5) The secretary or a designee.

11 (6) A member of the State Board of Education.

12 (b) The Oversight Board shall elect one of its members to
13 serve as the chair.

14 (c) The Oversight Board shall hold meetings at the call of
15 the chair. A majority of the members of the Oversight Board
16 shall constitute a quorum. Each member may designate another
17 person to represent that member at meetings of the Oversight
18 Board. Meetings shall be conducted under 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7
19 (relating to open meetings). Documents of the Oversight Board
20 shall be subject to the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3),
21 known as the "Right-to-Know Law."

22 (d) Members of the Oversight Board shall receive no
23 compensation for their services.

24 (e) The Oversight Board shall have the following powers and
25 duties:

26 (1) Review applications submitted to a local board of school
27 directors for new charter schools located in a city of the first
28 class.

29 (2) Review denial of applications submitted to a local board
30 of school directors for new charter schools located in a city of

1 the first class.

2 (3) Review revocation or renewal by a local board of school
3 directors of charters located in a city of the first class.

4 (4) Review applications submitted by the State Charter
5 Appeal Board for new charter schools located in a city of the
6 first class.

7 (5) Review denials made by the State Charter School Appeal
8 Board for new charter schools located in a city of the first
9 class.

10 (6) Authorize charter schools located in a city of the first
11 class and support charter school quality and accountability
12 through performance monitoring and technical assistance.

13 (f) In order to carry out its powers and duties, the
14 Oversight Board shall:

15 (1) develop principles and standards or adopt the National
16 Association of Charter School Authorizers Principles and
17 Standards; and

18 (2) develop a method to ensure that charter schools are
19 sufficiently distributed throughout a school district while also
20 ensuring that a charter application is not denied solely on the
21 basis of geographic location.

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