

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2381 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY TURZAI, TOBASH, SAYLOR, REED, ADOLPH, CUTLER, MAJOR, ELLIS, OBERLANDER, WARD, GREINER, TRUITT, LAWRENCE, FEE, PHILLIPS-HILL, M. K. KELLER, WARNER, RAPP, STAATS, MILLARD, GODSHALL, KAUFFMAN, QUIGLEY, TOPPER, IRVIN, PICKETT, MALONEY, ZIMMERMAN, GOODMAN, D. PARKER, HELM, GILLEN, MARSHALL, PEIFER, GROVE AND BENNINGHOFF, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 29, 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 preliminary provisions, further  
6 providing for Keystone Exams.

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

9 Section 1. Section 121(a) of the act of March 10, 1949  
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
11 amended February 3, 2016 (P.L.1. No.1), is amended and the  
12 section is amended by adding subsections to read:

13 Section 121. Keystone Exams.--(a) [Subject to annual  
14 appropriation, not later than the 2020-2021 school year, the]  
15 The Department of Education shall develop and implement Keystone  
16 Exams in [the following subjects:] algebra I, literature[,  
17 biology, English composition, algebra II, geometry, United  
18 States history, chemistry, civics and government and world

1 history.] and biology. The State Board of Education shall  
2 promulgate regulations, subject to the act of June 25, 1982  
3 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act,"  
4 necessary to implement this section.

5 \* \* \*

6 (c) Notwithstanding section 2604-B(b)(2)(v), 22 Pa. Code §  
7 4.24 (relating to high school graduation requirements) or 4.51  
8 (relating to State assessment system) or any statute or  
9 regulation to the contrary, in any school year in which a  
10 demonstration of proficiency on a Keystone Exam is required for  
11 high school graduation, a student who participates in vocational  
12 education as provided under Article XVIII either in an area  
13 vocational-technical school or in a school district shall be  
14 permitted to demonstrate proficiency on a NOCTI exam in lieu of  
15 demonstrating proficiency on one Keystone Exam. The Department  
16 of Education shall set a performance level for proficiency on  
17 the NOCTI exam, which the State Board of Education shall approve  
18 within six (6) months of the effective date of this section.

19 (d) As used in this section, the term "NOCTI exam" means the  
20 National Occupational Competency Testing Institute exam.

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.