

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 51 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, AUMENT AND SCARNATI, JANUARY 14, 2015

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 14, 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 providing for guidelines on religious expression.

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

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

12 Section 1516.2. Guidelines on Religious Expression.--(a)
 13 Beginning with school year 2015-2016, the Secretary of Education
 14 shall post on the Department of Education's publicly accessible
 15 Internet website for informational purposes the entire "Guidance
 16 on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and
 17 Secondary Schools" published by the United States Department of
 18 Education, as updated from time to time.

19 (b) In addition to the information required under subsection
 20 (a), the Secretary of Education may include on the Department of

1 Education's publicly accessible Internet website any additional
2 information it deems relevant to religious activity in public
3 schools, including applicable Federal and State laws.

4 (c) School districts may post the guidelines under
5 subsection (a) and any other relevant information posted by the
6 department under subsection (b) on the school districts'
7 publicly accessible Internet websites for informational purposes
8 for school board members, district school superintendents,
9 school principals, teachers and the general public.

10 (d) School districts may annually, through normal
11 communications, inform public school employees and parents or
12 guardians of students of the information posted under this
13 section and how they may access it on the school districts'
14 publicly accessible Internet website.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.