

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 104 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, BREWSTER, COSTA, GORDNER, BOSCOLA, WILLIAMS, RAFFERTY AND BROWNE, FEBRUARY 12, 2015

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 12, 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 preliminary provisions, providing
6 for the Dual Enrollment Expansion Task Force.

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 124. Dual Enrollment Expansion Task Force.--(a) The
13 Dual Enrollment Expansion Task Force is established.

14 (b) The task force shall review and make recommendations for
15 expanding dual enrollment and advanced placement opportunities
16 that allow students to obtain college credits while in high
17 school to ultimately make college education more affordable, as
18 provided in this section.

19 (c) The task force shall consist of the following members:

1 (1) The chairman and the minority chairman of the Education
2 Committee of the Senate and the chairman and the minority
3 chairman of the Education Committee of the House of
4 Representatives.

5 (2) The Secretary of Education or a designee.

6 (3) The Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary
7 Education or a designee.

8 (4) The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Postsecondary and
9 Higher Education or a designee.

10 (5) The Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education
11 or a designee.

12 (6) The presidents of each of the Commonwealth's four State-
13 related universities or their designees.

14 (7) The president of the Pennsylvania Commission for
15 Community Colleges or a designee.

16 (8) The president of the Association of Independent Colleges
17 and Universities of Pennsylvania or a designee.

18 (9) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of Private
19 School Administrators or a designee.

20 (10) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of School
21 Administrators or a designee.

22 (11) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of School
23 Business Officials or a designee.

24 (12) The president of the Pennsylvania School Boards
25 Association or a designee.

26 (13) The president of the Philadelphia Federation of
27 Teachers or a designee.

28 (14) The president of the Pennsylvania State Education
29 Association or a designee.

30 (15) The president of the Association of Pennsylvania State

1 College and University Faculties or a designee.

2 (16) Two representatives of this Commonwealth's broadband
3 cable industry, one each to be selected by the President pro
4 tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives.

6 (17) The president of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business
7 and Industry or a designee.

8 (d) The members of the task force shall select a member to
9 serve as chair of the task force.

10 (e) The task force shall hold its first meeting within
11 forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this section.

12 (f) The task force shall hold meetings at the call of the
13 chair.

14 (g) The members may not receive compensation for their
15 services, but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel and
16 other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the
17 performance of their duties as members of the task force.

18 (h) The task force may employ technical and clerical staff
19 as it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities under
20 this section.

21 (i) The General Assembly shall provide administrative
22 support, meeting space and any other assistance required by the
23 task force to carry out its duties under this section in
24 cooperation with the department. The department shall provide
25 the task force with data, research and other information upon
26 request by the task force.

27 (j) The task force shall have all of the following powers
28 and duties:

29 (1) Review and make findings and recommendations for the
30 addition or expansion of dual enrollment programs in this

1 Commonwealth.

2 (2) Review and make findings and recommendations for the
3 expansion of advanced placement options in this Commonwealth.

4 (3) Consult with and utilize experts to assist in carrying
5 out the duties under this subsection.

6 (4) Receive input from interested parties, including, but
7 not limited to, school districts, career and technical schools,
8 institutions of higher education, the College Board, Department
9 of Labor, media and Internet companies and trade associations.

10 (5) Meet with all segments of the basic and higher education
11 communities, representatives of the State's business and labor
12 communities and Internet Service Providers operating within this
13 Commonwealth to discuss their potential involvement in the
14 operation of a State virtual dual-enrollment, blended or hybrid
15 high school program.

16 (6) Meet with current operators of Internet-based
17 educational programs operating within this Commonwealth,
18 including those operated by school districts, intermediate units
19 and blended and hybrid high school programs.

20 (7) Hold public hearings in different regions of this
21 Commonwealth, consistent with the following:

22 (i) All meetings and public hearings of the task force shall
23 be deemed public meetings for the purpose of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7
24 (relating to open meetings).

25 (ii) Seven (7) members of the task force shall constitute a
26 quorum at any meeting.

27 (iii) Each member of the task force may designate another
28 person to represent that member at meetings of the task force.

29 (8) Review and consider factors of college credit expansion
30 to high school students, including, but not limited to, access

1 to the advanced placement program and testing that is utilized
2 throughout the United States.

3 (9) Identify the following types of classes taught in this
4 Commonwealth:

5 (i) High school courses taught by college instructors for
6 neighboring higher education institutions.

7 (ii) Career and certification courses taught in high schools
8 by community college instructors.

9 (iii) Hybrid learning opportunities listed in subparagraphs
10 (i) and (ii) where students will earn college credit in a
11 combination of the classroom, online learning, college campuses
12 and the workplace.

13 (10) Consider courses to be offered when adding or expanding
14 options already in place, including how courses will be selected
15 and assessed.

16 (11) Consider policies for awarding college credit and the
17 means for program accountability.

18 (12) In identifying the factors needed to expand dual
19 enrollment and the advanced placement program and testing and in
20 completing the report required under paragraph (21), consider
21 the impact these factors may have on the distribution of basic
22 education funding among the school districts.

23 (13) Consider methods for funding the expansion of dual
24 enrollment and the advanced placement program, including cost
25 estimates.

26 (14) Review the administration of State and regional basic
27 education programs and services to determine if cost savings may
28 be achieved while expanding the ability of students to obtain
29 college credit in high school and make recommendations to
30 implement the savings.

1 (15) Consider the advantages and disadvantages of a uniform
2 articulation agreement for each school district in relation to
3 the level of State basic education funding the school district
4 received in the prior school year.

5 (16) Identify and facilitate opportunities for academically
6 talented students in economically distressed school districts to
7 complete their junior and senior years at an area community
8 college or university.

9 (17) Review faculty issues arising from the expansion of
10 dual enrollment arrangements and advanced placement courses and
11 programs, including salaries, employe status in arrangements for
12 reporting purposes, certification, training, professional
13 development and evaluation.

14 (18) Assure maximum accessibility to expanded dual
15 enrollment and advanced placement opportunities for all high
16 school students in all geographic locations.

17 (19) Develop a proposed plan incorporating the essential
18 factors for expanding dual enrollment and advanced placement
19 opportunities identified in this subsection.

20 (20) Draft proposed regulations and legislation based on the
21 task force's findings.

22 (21) Not later than one (1) year after the effective date of
23 this section, issue a report of the task force's findings and
24 recommendations to the Governor, the President pro tempore of
25 the Senate, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
26 Senate, the Education Committee of the Senate, the Speaker of
27 the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and the
28 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Education
29 Committee of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of
30 Education and the State Board of Education.

1 (22) Consider other issues as it deems appropriate.

2 (k) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
3 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
4 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Department." The Department of Education of the
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Dual enrollment." The term shall include, but not be
8 limited to, an arrangement between a school district and a
9 postsecondary institution that is made pursuant to:

10 (1) A concurrent written agreement established under Article
11 XVI-B.

12 (2) An agreement made under section 1525.

13 (3) An articulation agreement authorized by the department.

14 (4) Any other type of arrangement that would address the
15 need to close academic opportunity gaps for obtaining college
16 credit, whether through direct college course attendance,
17 successful advanced placement course work offered to the student
18 while in high school or other programs that provide a student
19 with the ability to obtain college credits while in high school
20 and ultimately make college education more affordable in this
21 Commonwealth.

22 "Task force." The Dual Enrollment Expansion Task Force
23 established under this section.

24 (1) This section shall expire June 30, 2016.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.