
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1075 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, BREWSTER, FONTANA AND COSTA,
NOVEMBER 23, 2015

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 23, 2015

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Charter and Cyber Charter School Funding
2 Commission; and providing for its powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Charter and
7 Cyber Charter School Funding Commission Act.

8 Section 2. Charter and Cyber Charter School Funding Commission.

9 (a) Establishment.--The Charter and Cyber Charter School
10 Funding Commission is established.

11 (b) Purpose.--The commission shall review and make
12 recommendations relating to, but not limited to, determining
13 appropriate tuition rates and State funding related to charter
14 and cyber charter education.

15 (c) Membership.--

16 (1) The commission shall consist of the following
17 members:

18 (i) The chair and minority chair of the Education

1 Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority chair
2 of the Education Committee of the House of
3 Representatives or their designees.

4 (ii) Two legislators from each of the four
5 legislative caucuses to be appointed by the President pro
6 tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives, in consultation with the Majority Leader
8 and Minority Leader of the Senate and the Majority Leader
9 and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

10 (iii) The Secretary of Education or a designee.

11 (iv) The Deputy Secretary for Elementary and
12 Secondary Education or a designee.

13 (v) An individual appointed by the Governor from
14 within the Governor's Administration.

15 (2) The commission shall elect a member to serve as
16 chair of the commission.

17 (d) Initial meeting.--The commission shall hold its first
18 meeting within 45 days of the effective date of this section,
19 regardless of whether the Governor or all legislative caucuses
20 have appointed members to the commission.

21 (e) Meetings.--The commission shall hold meetings at the
22 call of the chair.

23 (f) Expenses.--The members may not receive compensation for
24 their services, but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel
25 and other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the
26 performance of their duties as members of the commission.

27 (g) Administrative support.--The General Assembly shall
28 provide administrative support, meeting space and any other
29 assistance required by the commission to carry out its duties
30 under this section in cooperation with the Department of

1 Education of the Commonwealth.

2 (h) Quorum.--A quorum constituting 10 members of the
3 commission who are present and in person shall be required to
4 take any action related to powers and duties of the commission
5 in making recommendations, approving draft legislation or
6 regulations or approving the commission's report on its findings
7 and recommendations under subsection (j).

8 (i) Voting.--An affirmative vote of 10 members of the
9 commission who are present and in person shall be required to
10 make recommendations, approve draft legislation or regulations
11 or approve the commission's report on its findings and
12 recommendations under subsection (j).

13 (j) Powers and duties.--The commission shall have all of the
14 following powers and duties:

15 (1) Review and make findings and recommendations related
16 to charter and cyber charter school tuition rates and State
17 funding in this Commonwealth.

18 (2) Consult with and utilize experts to assist the
19 commission in carrying out the duties under this subsection.

20 (3) Receive input from interested parties, including,
21 but not limited to, charter and cyber charter school entities
22 and other local education agencies.

23 (4) Hold public hearings in different regions of this
24 Commonwealth.

25 (5) Review, consider and compare charter and cyber
26 charter school funding formulas and factors utilized
27 throughout the United States with the Commonwealth's current
28 charter school funding process.

29 (6) In identifying the charter and cyber charter school
30 funding factors under this subsection and in completing the

1 report required under this subsection, consider the impact
2 these factors may have on the distribution of education
3 funding in this Commonwealth.

4 (7) Draft proposed regulations and proposed legislation
5 based on the commission's findings.

6 (8) Issue a report of the commission's findings and
7 recommendations to the Governor, the President pro tempore of
8 the Senate, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
9 Senate, the Education Committee of the Senate, the Speaker of
10 the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and
11 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the
12 Education Committee of the House of Representatives and the
13 Secretary of Education not later than one year after the
14 initial meeting of the commission.

15 (k) General Assembly approval.--The charter and cyber
16 charter school education tuition rates and funding formula
17 developed by the commission shall not go into effect unless the
18 formula is approved by an act of the General Assembly enacted
19 after the effective date of this section.

20 (l) Reconstitution.--Every five years the commission shall
21 be reconstituted in accordance with subsection (c), meet and
22 hold public hearings to review the operation of the charter and
23 cyber charter school funding provisions of this section, make a
24 further report and issue the report to the recipients listed in
25 subsection (j).

26 (m) Appropriations.--Notwithstanding the recommendations of
27 the commission, the General Assembly shall, through the annual
28 appropriations process, determine whether and to what extent the
29 Commonwealth should provide State funding to, for or in support
30 of charter and cyber charter schools.

1 Section 3. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect immediately.