
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 743 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW AND HILL-EVANS,
MARCH 7, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 7, 2017

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

1 established. The Oversight Board shall consist of the following
2 members:

3 (1) The secretary or a designee.

4 (2) The chairperson of the State board or a designee.

5 (3) The following members appointed by the Governor and
6 confirmed by the Senate:

7 (i) Two (2) members who shall represent private institutions
8 of higher education located within a city of the first class
9 from a list of five (5) qualified persons recommended by private
10 universities.

11 (ii) One (1) member who shall represent State-related
12 institutions of higher education located within a city of the
13 first class from a list of three (3) qualified persons
14 recommended by State-related universities.

15 (iii) One (1) member who shall represent charter schools
16 located within a city of the first class from a list of three
17 (3) qualified persons recommended by the Pennsylvania Coalition
18 of Public Charter Schools and the Keystone Alliance.

19 (iv) One (1) member who shall represent school districts
20 located within a city of the first class from a list of three
21 (3) qualified persons recommended by the Pennsylvania School
22 Boards Association and the Pennsylvania State Education
23 Association.

24 (v) Two (2) members who shall represent secondary schools of
25 any type within a city of the first class from a list of five
26 (5) qualified persons recommended by the Philadelphia School
27 Partnership and the Philadelphia School Advocacy Partners.

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

30 (c) The Oversight Board shall hold meetings at the call of

1 the chair. A majority of the members of the Oversight Board
2 shall constitute a quorum. Each member may designate another
3 person to represent that member at meetings of the Oversight
4 Board. Meetings shall be conducted under 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7
5 (relating to open meetings). Documents of the Oversight Board
6 shall be subject to the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3),
7 known as the "Right-to-Know Law."

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

10 (e) The Oversight Board shall have the following powers and
11 duties:

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

15 (2) Review denial of applications submitted to a local board
16 of school directors for new charter schools located in a city of
17 the first class.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (1) develop principles and standards or adopt the National
2 Association of Charter School Authorizers' principles and
3 standards; and

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

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