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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1151 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, SAMUELSON, MACKENZIE, WHEELAND, V. BROWN,  
MCNEILL, BARRAR, O'BRIEN, NEILSON, MENTZER, WATSON, MURT,  
LONGIETTI, READSHAW, IRVIN, HELM, ROEBUCK, SCHWEYER AND  
SOLOMON, APRIL 12, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 12, 2017

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the Governor's Schools of Excellence.

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

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Governor's  
6 Schools of Excellence Act.

7 Section 2. Legislative intent.

8 It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish the  
9 permanent operation of the Governor's Schools of Excellence in  
10 order to afford students of all socioeconomic backgrounds the  
11 opportunity to pursue in-depth and advanced studies in fields  
12 that may include, but are not limited to, agricultural sciences,  
13 engineering and technology, sciences or arts.

14 Section 3. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
16 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
3 Commonwealth.

4 "Governor's School of Excellence." A school established by  
5 the department under section 5.

6 "Host site." The college or university within this  
7 Commonwealth where a Governor's School of Excellence is located.

8 "Program." The Governor's Schools of Excellence Program  
9 established under section 4.

10 Section 4. Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.

11 The Governor's Schools of Excellence Program is established  
12 within the department.

13 Section 5. Duties of department.

14 (a) Disciplines.--To the extent funding is appropriated by  
15 the General Assembly for the purpose, the department shall  
16 establish at least five Governor's Schools of Excellence at host  
17 sites throughout this Commonwealth in disciplines that may  
18 include any of the following:

19 (1) Agricultural sciences.

20 (2) Engineering and technology.

21 (3) Sciences.

22 (4) Arts.

23 (5) Other disciplines determined by the department.

24 (b) Locations.--

25 (1) Governor's Schools of Excellence may be sponsored by  
26 and located at host sites designated by the department.

27 (2) The department shall designate host sites on a  
28 competitive basis, based upon criteria to be determined by  
29 the department and published on the department's publicly  
30 accessible Internet website.

1           (3) In order to be designated by the department, the  
2 host site shall provide at least 50% of the cost to operate  
3 the Governor's School of Excellence.

4           (4) Host sites designated by the department shall be  
5 geographically dispersed throughout this Commonwealth.

6           (c) Administration.--In administering the program, the  
7 department shall do all of the following:

8           (1) Make student applications available to every public  
9 school and nonpublic school in this Commonwealth and include  
10 the application on the department's publicly accessible  
11 Internet website.

12           (2) Ensure that each Governor's School of Excellence is  
13 utilizing a process in which students are selected on the  
14 basis of student performance and achievement through a  
15 competitive selection process and seek to ensure an  
16 economically, socially and geographically diverse student  
17 population.

18           (3) Ensure the Governor's School of Excellence complies  
19 with subsection (e), enabling all qualified students the  
20 opportunity to enroll in the program regardless of the  
21 student's economic circumstances.

22           (d) Scheduling.--Governor's Schools of Excellence shall be  
23 held, to the extent possible, during the summer months between  
24 the end and the beginning of the school year. The department may  
25 grant permission for a school to be held at other times during  
26 the school year when circumstances and programming options  
27 warrant such a change.

28           (e) Costs.--Students attending a Governor's School of  
29 Excellence shall not be required to pay any tuition or fees to  
30 attend and participate in a Governor's School of Excellence.

1 Students are responsible for their own costs relating to  
2 transportation to and from the school.  
3 Section 6. Effective date.  
4 This act shall take effect immediately.