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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1315 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY GILLESPIE, GABLER, MENTZER, LAWRENCE, ZIMMERMAN,  
BENNINGHOFF AND GILLEN, MAY 2, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 2, 2017

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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 grounds and buildings, providing  
6 for a prototypical school facility design clearinghouse.

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 732.2. Prototypical School Facility Design  
13 Clearinghouse.--(a) (1) The Department of Education shall  
14 establish a central clearinghouse of prototypical school  
15 facility designs for access by school entities.

16 (2) In order to receive the State reimbursement factor  
17 provided for in section 2574, a school entity must use a  
18 prototype design in the construction of school facilities.

19 (3) The Department of Education may exempt a school entity  
20 from participating in the program for a particular project, if

1 the school entity demonstrates that:

2 (i) the designs in the clearinghouse are not feasible for  
3 that particular project due to specific geographic or other  
4 limitations of that area; or

5 (ii) the project involves remodeling, rehabilitating or  
6 expanding an existing structure.

7 The Department of Education shall provide notice to a school  
8 entity that is exempt from using a design in the clearinghouse  
9 under this paragraph. The notice shall also be made available to  
10 the public by the school entity.

11 (4) The Department of Education shall compile necessary  
12 publications and a computer database to make the information on  
13 prototype designs available for review to school entities and  
14 the public at large.

15 (5) For purposes of this section, the Department of  
16 Education shall divide this Commonwealth into the following  
17 regions: northwest, northeast, southeast, southwest, north  
18 central and south central. The Department of Education shall  
19 designate which counties are in which region by grouping  
20 counties together based on geographic proximity.

21 (b) Design professionals registered in this Commonwealth may  
22 submit plans for inclusion in the computer database that have  
23 been submitted and approved by the Department of Education in  
24 accordance with section 731. The original design professional of  
25 record shall retain ownership of a prototype design.

26 Prototypical school facility designs submitted shall include  
27 information that the Department of Education determines is  
28 necessary and appropriate to facilitate this section.

29 (c) The Department of Education shall review and evaluate  
30 plans submitted pursuant to this section for inclusion in the

1 clearinghouse using standards which promote the following:

2 (1) The use of design principles to achieve the highest  
3 standards of health, safety, accessibility, environmental  
4 protection and energy efficiency.

5 (2) The academic and technological needs of students.

6 (3) The use of cost-effective design and construction  
7 techniques, including the use of straight-line, right-angle  
8 design principles and avoiding the use of curved and  
9 nonsymmetrical design.

10 (4) The use of design principles that allow for expansion of  
11 school facilities to accommodate future growth in student  
12 population.

13 (5) The use of durable materials in construction.

14 (6) The preservation of open space.

15 (d) The Department of Education shall group the designs  
16 accepted for the clearinghouse by the regions established under  
17 subsection (a) (5), based on energy needs for heating and  
18 cooling, building size, average school entity population in the  
19 region, layout of the building, whether one story or multiple  
20 stories, and structural requirements due to climatic or  
21 geographic difficulties.

22 (e) The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall  
23 conduct a study of the program to determine the savings incurred  
24 by school entities that have participated in the program. The  
25 study shall be conducted at the conclusion of the fifth year of  
26 operation and shall include program participation for the five-  
27 year period from inspection until its fifth anniversary. The  
28 study shall be presented within six months of its commencement  
29 to the chairperson and minority chairperson of the Education  
30 Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and minority

1 chairperson of the Education Committee of the House of  
2 Representatives.

3 (f) The Department of Education shall adopt rules necessary  
4 to implement this section.

5 (g) As used in this section, the term "school entity" means  
6 a school district, intermediate unit, area vocational-technical  
7 school or charter school operating within this Commonwealth  
8 under the provisions of this act.

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 180 days.