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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2740 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY MEHAFFIE AND KAUFER, OCTOBER 18, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 18, 2018

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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 school directors, further  
6 providing for school director training programs.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 328(a) of the act of March 10, 1949  
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added  
11 November 6, 2017 (P.L.1142, No.55), is amended to read:

12 Section 328. School Director Training Programs.--(a)  
13 Beginning in the [2018-2019] 2019-2020 school year and in each  
14 school year thereafter, the following shall apply:

15 (1) Each newly elected or appointed school director shall  
16 complete, during the first year of the school director's first  
17 term, a training program [made available by the Department of  
18 Education, in consultation with a Statewide organization  
19 representing school directors and a Statewide organization  
20 representing school business officials,] pertaining to the

1 skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a school director.  
2 The training program shall consist of a minimum of four (4)  
3 hours of instruction, including, at a minimum, information  
4 regarding the following:

5 (i) Instruction and academic programs.

6 (ii) Personnel.

7 (iii) Fiscal management.

8 (iv) Operations.

9 (v) Governance.

10 (vi) Ethics and open meetings, to include the requirements  
11 under 65 Pa.C.S. Pt. II (relating to accountability).

12 (2) Within one (1) year after each reelection or  
13 reappointment to the board of school directors, each school  
14 director shall complete an advanced training program [made  
15 available by the Department of Education in consultation with a  
16 Statewide organization representing school directors and a  
17 Statewide organization representing school business officials.  
18 The advanced training program] which shall consist of a minimum  
19 of two (2) hours of instruction, including information on  
20 relevant changes to Federal and State public school law and  
21 regulations, fiscal management and other information deemed  
22 appropriate by the Department of Education to enable the school  
23 director to serve effectively.

24 (3) The training programs required under this subsection  
25 shall be made available by the Department of Education [at no  
26 cost to school districts or school directors. The Department of  
27 Education shall approve alternative training programs that  
28 fulfill the requirements of this subsection which may be  
29 provided by school districts, intermediate units, postsecondary  
30 institutions or Statewide education organizations. The

1 department shall post on its publicly accessible Internet  
2 website all alternative training programs approved under this  
3 paragraph.] which shall contract with a Statewide education  
4 organization which represents school directors to administer the  
5 training programs. The Statewide education organization which  
6 represents school directors shall have the following duties:

7 (i) Prepare and offer the training programs at no  
8 cost to school districts or school directors.

9 (ii) Track the compliance of school directors with  
10 the requirements of this subsection.

11 (iii) Provide the Department of Education with an  
12 annual report which includes a general summary of the  
13 compliance tracked under subparagraph (ii).

14 (iv) Consult with another Statewide education  
15 organization which represents school business officials  
16 when preparing the training programs related to fiscal  
17 management.

18 (v) Approve quality alternative training programs  
19 that fulfill the requirements of this subsection which  
20 may be provided by school districts, intermediate units,  
21 postsecondary institutions or other Statewide education  
22 organizations.

23 (vi) Post information on all alternative training  
24 programs approved under this paragraph on the Statewide  
25 education organization's publicly accessible Internet  
26 website in a conspicuous manner.

27 (3.1) The Department of Education shall post the  
28 requirements of this subsection and information on where to  
29 access the training programs at no cost on the Department of  
30 Education's publicly accessible Internet website.

1 (4) This subsection shall apply to members of a school  
2 reform commission established under section 696, provided that  
3 the training programs provided to members of a school reform  
4 commission shall include information regarding sections 693 and  
5 696 and other information deemed appropriate to enable a member  
6 of a school reform commission to serve effectively.

7 (5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to  
8 prohibit a Statewide education organization representing school  
9 directors from offering different training programs or other  
10 learning activities in addition to the training programs  
11 required under this subsection at an additional cost.

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13 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.