
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1219 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, PICKETT, MURT, JAMES, HELM, DeLUCA,
PASHINSKI, MILLARD, LAWRENCE, GREGORY AND RADER,
APRIL 15, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 15, 2019

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, providing for
6 charter school funding advisory commission.

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 1704-A. Charter school funding advisory
13 commission.--(a) The charter school funding advisory commission
14 is established.

15 (b) The commission shall examine all current laws,
16 regulations and executive policy statements which determine
17 funding for charter schools, regional charter schools and cyber
18 charter schools in this Commonwealth.

19 (c) The commission shall consist of the following:

1 (1) The secretary or a designee.

2 (2) One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
3 Senate.

4 (3) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
5 Senate.

6 (4) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives.

8 (5) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House
9 of Representatives.

10 (6) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
11 Appropriations Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and
12 minority chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the
13 House of Representatives.

14 (7) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
15 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and
16 minority chairperson of the Education Committee of the House of
17 Representatives.

18 (8) One member jointly appointed by the President Pro
19 Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives.

21 (d) The commission shall hold its organizational meeting not
22 later than sixty (60) days following the effective date of this
23 section. All members shall be appointed within thirty (30) days
24 of the effective date of this section. Any vacancy on the
25 commission shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

26 (e) The commission shall elect two commission chairpersons,
27 one from the Senate and one from the House of Representatives.

28 (f) The commission shall hold meetings at the call of the
29 chairpersons. The commission shall hold six (6) or more public
30 hearings on the matters to be considered by the commission. All

1 meetings and public hearings of the commission shall be deemed
2 public meetings for the purpose of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to
3 open meetings). A majority of the members of the commission
4 shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

5 (g) The commission members shall receive no compensation for
6 their services but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel
7 and other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the
8 performance of their duties as members.

9 (h) The commission shall have the following powers and
10 duties:

11 (1) To meet with current charter school entity operators and
12 personnel, school district personnel and other representatives
13 of public education.

14 (2) To review charter school entity financing laws in
15 operation throughout the United States.

16 (3) To assess the actual cost of educating a child in a
17 charter school, a regional charter school, a cyber charter
18 school and a school district or intermediate unit utilizing
19 cyber classes.

20 (4) To evaluate and make recommendations on the following:

21 (i) The process by which charter schools, regional charter
22 schools and cyber charter schools are funded.

23 (ii) Appropriate funding for charter school, regional
24 charter school and cyber charter school operations.

25 (iii) Appropriate funding for charter school, regional
26 charter school and cyber charter school facilities and
27 management.

28 (iv) Appropriate funding for regular and special education
29 transportation.

30 (v) Other funding issues raised in the course of public

1 hearings.

2 (vi) The appropriateness of a school district deduction for
3 programs and services to the extent that they are funded from
4 the proceeds of competitive grants from private or public
5 resources or from contributions or donations from private
6 sources.

7 (vii) The appropriate manner of funding a charter school
8 that primarily serves adjudicated youth.

9 (viii) Appropriate funding for athletic programs and extra-
10 curricular activities offered to a student enrolled in a charter
11 school, regional charter school or cyber charter school.

12 (ix) The appropriate manner of implementing the
13 recommendations of the special education funding commission with
14 respect to charter schools, regional charter schools and cyber
15 charter schools.

16 (i) The General Assembly shall provide administrative
17 support, meeting space and any other assistance required by the
18 commission to carry out its duties under this section. Whenever
19 possible, the commission shall utilize the services and
20 expertise of existing personnel and staff of State government.

21 (j) The commission shall, no later than eighteen (18) months
22 from the effective date of this section, issue a report of its
23 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President Pro
24 Tempore of the Senate, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the
25 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the House of
27 Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of
28 Representatives. The recommendations of the commission shall not
29 take effect unless the recommendations are approved by an act of
30 the General Assembly enacted after the effective date of this

1 section.

2 (k) As used in this section, the term "commission" means the
3 charter school funding advisory commission.

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