

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1561 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, READSHAW, NEILSON,
YOUNGBLOOD, DEASY AND DeLUCA, JUNE 4, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 4, 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 terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for fire and emergency evacuation drills.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1517(a) and (e) of the act of March 10,
10 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
11 are amended and the section is amended by adding subsections to
12 read:

13 Section 1517. Fire, School Security and Emergency Evacuation
14 Drills.--(a) Except as provided under subsection (a.1), in all
15 school buildings of school entities where fire-escapes,
16 appliances for the extinguishment of fires, or proper and
17 sufficient exits in case of fire or panic, either or all, are
18 required by law to be maintained, fire drills shall be
19 periodically conducted, not less than one a month[, by the
20 teacher or teachers in charge] while the school entity is in

1 session and students are present, under [rules and regulations
2 to be promulgated] policies adopted by the chief school
3 administrator under whose supervision such school entities are.
4 In such fire drills the pupils and teachers shall be instructed
5 in, and made thoroughly familiar with, the use of the fire-
6 escapes, appliances and exits. The drill shall include the
7 actual use thereof, and the complete removal of the pupils and
8 teachers, in an expeditious and orderly manner, by means of
9 fire-escapes and exits, from the building to a place of safety
10 on the ground outside.

11 * * *

12 (a.2) A record of all fire, school security and emergency
13 evacuation drills shall be completed by the principal or person
14 in charge at each school building and shall be accurate and up-
15 to-date and kept on file in the respective school offices. The
16 principal or person in charge shall submit the record to the
17 chief school administrator and the Department of Education by
18 June 30 each year for review by the department for compliance
19 with this section. The Department of Education shall determine
20 the manner and form of the record to be used to document the
21 fire, school security and emergency evacuation drills by the
22 principal or person in charge at each school building. The
23 record must include, at a minimum, the following:

24 (1) The date and time of the drill.

25 (2) The duration of the drill.

26 (3) The drill type.

27 (4) The signature of the principal or person in charge.

28 * * *

29 (e) On or before the tenth day of April of each year, each
30 chief school administrator shall certify to the Department of

1 Education that the fire and emergency evacuation drills and
2 school security drills herein required have been conducted in
3 accordance with this section[.] and documented in the record by
4 the principal or person in charge of each school building.

5 (e.1) The Department of Education, by September 1, 2020, and
6 each August 1 thereafter, shall provide annually a report on
7 Statewide compliance with the provisions of this section to the
8 Education Committee of the Senate, the Education Committee of
9 the House of Representatives and the State Fire Commissioner and
10 shall make the report available on the department's publicly
11 accessible Internet website.

12 * * *

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