

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2788 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY TOPPER, REESE, BOROWICZ, COX, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DAVANZO, DOWLING, DRISCOLL, DUSH, ECKER, EVERETT, GABLER, GLEIM, GREGORY, GROVE, HEFFLEY, HILL-EVANS, JOZWIAK, KAUFFMAN, KEEFER, KLUNK, KNOWLES, MARSHALL, MILLARD, MIZGORSKI, OBERLANDER, PEIFER, POLINCHOCK, SANKEY, SAYLOR, SCHMITT, THOMAS, WARNER, LONGIETTI, SAINATO, MOUL, KORTZ, BURNS, KULIK, PETRARCA, LEWIS, KAIL AND GAYDOS, AUGUST 18, 2020

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, AUGUST 20, 2020

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 PUPILS AND ATTENDANCE, PROVIDING <--
6 FOR AGE LIMIT EXTENSION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC OF 2020;
7 AND, in terms and courses of study, providing for option year
8 of education due to COVID-19.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
12 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a- <--
13 ~~section~~ SECTIONS to read: <--

14 SECTION 1301.1. AGE LIMIT EXTENSION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC <--
15 OF 2020.--NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 1301, EVERY STUDENT WHO WAS
16 TWENTY (20) OR TWENTY-ONE (21) YEARS OF AGE BEFORE THE
17 PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY ISSUED BY THE GOVERNOR ON

1 MARCH 6, 2020, PUBLISHED AT 50 PA.B. 1644 (MARCH 21, 2020), AND
2 ANY RENEWAL OF THE STATE OF DISASTER EMERGENCY, AND WHO WAS
3 ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THIS COMMONWEALTH, IN
4 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1301, DURING THE PROCLAMATION OF
5 DISASTER EMERGENCY, OR ANY RENEWAL OF THE STATE OF DISASTER
6 EMERGENCY, SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A TWELVE-MONTH EXTENSION OF
7 ELIGIBILITY UNDER SECTION 1301 FREE OF CHARGE.

8 Section ~~1501.11~~ 1501.10. Option Year of Education Due to <--
9 COVID-19.--(a) The welfare of this Commonwealth requires that
10 the present generation of school age children be provided ample
11 opportunity to develop to their fullest intellectual
12 capacities. It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure
13 that the present generation of school age children do not lose
14 educational opportunities due to the proclamation of disaster
15 emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at
16 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020).

17 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the
18 2021-2022 school year, a parent may elect to have a child in a
19 school entity repeat a grade level to make up for any lost
20 educational opportunities during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021
21 school years regardless of whether the child met the
22 requirements to be promoted to the next grade level. The
23 parental election under this subsection shall include
24 participation in all academic or extracurricular activities.

25 (c) A school entity shall create a process for a parent to
26 make the election under subsection (b) and post the process on
27 its publicly accessible Internet website.

28 (d) As used in this section, the term "school entity" shall
29 mean a school district, intermediate unit, area career and
30 technical school, charter school, cyber charter school, regional

1 charter school or nonpublic school entity.

2 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.