

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 590 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, TOMLINSON, LANGERHOLC, DINNIMAN, AUMENT, COSTA, KILLION, HUGHES, MENSCH, VOGEL, FOLMER, SCHWANK, LEACH, SANTARSIERO, KEARNEY, BAKER, BLAKE, STEFANO, BREWSTER, J. WARD, K. WARD AND REGAN, MAY 1, 2019

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 1, 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, establishing the  
 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 (d) The commission shall hold its organizational meeting not  
19 later than sixty (60) days following the effective date of this  
20 section. All members shall be appointed within thirty (30) days  
21 of the effective date of this section. Any vacancy on the  
22 commission shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

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

25 (f) The commission shall hold meetings at the call of the  
26 chairpersons. The commission shall hold six (6) or more public  
27 hearings on the matters to be considered by the commission. All  
28 meetings and public hearings of the commission shall be deemed  
29 public meetings for the purpose of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to  
30 open meetings). Seven (7) members of the commission shall

1 constitute a quorum at any meeting.

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

6 (h) The commission shall have the following powers and  
7 duties:

8 (1) To meet with current charter school entity operators and  
9 personnel, school district personnel and other representatives  
10 of public education.

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

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

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

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

20 (ii) Appropriate funding for charter school, regional  
21 charter school and cyber charter school operations.

22 (iii) Appropriate funding for charter school, regional  
23 charter school and cyber charter school facilities and  
24 management.

25 (iv) Appropriate funding for regular and special education  
26 transportation.

27 (v) Other funding issues raised in the course of public  
28 hearings.

29 (vi) Consideration of a school district deduction for  
30 programs and services to the extent that they are funded from

1 the proceeds of competitive grants from private or public  
2 resources or from contributions or donations from private  
3 sources.

4 (vii) The appropriate manner of funding for a charter school  
5 that primarily serves adjudicated youth.

6 (viii) Appropriate funding for athletic programs and  
7 extracurricular activities offered to a student enrolled in a  
8 charter school, regional charter school or cyber charter school.

9 (ix) Appropriate funding for charter school, regional  
10 charter school and cyber charter school special education  
11 programs.

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

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

28 (k) As used in this section, the term "commission" means the  
29 Charter School Funding Advisory Commission.

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.