

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 869 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, STEFANO, REGAN, ARGALL, BARTOLOTTA, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL, VOGEL, J. WARD, K. WARD, BAKER, YUDICHAK, DINNIMAN, BROWNE AND BROOKS, OCTOBER 1, 2019

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 1, 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 terms and courses of study,
6 providing for moment of silence on September 11 anniversary
7 and for moment of silence on December 7, Pearl Harbor Day.

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

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

13 Section 1555. Moment of Silence on September 11
14 Anniversary.--(a) Beginning with school year ~~2020-2021~~ 2021- <--
15 2022 and any subsequent school year when September 11 occurs on
16 a school day, each school entity shall conduct a moment of
17 silence during instructional hours for students and faculty to
18 observe the anniversary of September 11, 2001, as a remembrance

1 of the thousands of military service persons, government  
2 employees, civilians and emergency responders who lost their  
3 lives or were wounded by terrorist attacks on that date.

4 (b) Beginning with the ~~2020-2021~~ 2021-2022 school year, the <--  
5 Department of Education shall make available to all school  
6 entities voluntary in-service training programs based upon the  
7 moment of silence provided for under subsection (a).

8 (c) The Department of Education shall establish a model  
9 curriculum for instruction in the events and significance of  
10 September 11, 2001, no later than twelve (12) months after the  
11 effective date of this section. The model curriculum shall  
12 include, but not be limited to, all of the following topics  
13 where appropriate:

14 (1) The historical context of terrorism.

15 (2) The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the  
16 Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93 which crashed in  
17 Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

18 (3) American recovery and response to the attacks.

19 (4) Global challenges and consequences in a post-September  
20 11 world.

21 (d) The Department of Education shall make available on the  
22 department's publicly accessible Internet website curriculum  
23 materials and other available resources regarding the events and  
24 significance of September 11, 2001, for voluntary use by school  
25 entities.

26 (e) The Department of Education shall provide the model  
27 curriculum, voluntary in-service training and any other  
28 materials developed in accordance with this section to any  
29 nonpublic school within this Commonwealth upon receiving a  
30 request from the nonpublic school.

1 (f) Nothing in subsections (c) and (d) shall be construed to  
2 require a school entity or nonpublic school to implement, adopt  
3 or use the curriculum, materials and other resources made  
4 available by the department under this section.

5 (g) For purposes of this section, the term "school entity"  
6 shall mean a school district, charter school, regional charter  
7 school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area career  
8 and technical school.

9 Section 1556. Moment of Silence on December 7, Pearl Harbor  
10 Day.--(a) Beginning with school year 2021-2022 and any  
11 subsequent school year when Pearl Harbor Day occurs on a school  
12 day, each school entity shall conduct a moment of silence during  
13 instructional hours for students and faculty to observe the  
14 anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day as a remembrance of the 3,546  
15 military service persons who lost their lives or were wounded by  
16 the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

17 (b) Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the Department  
18 of Education shall make available to all school entities  
19 voluntary in-service training programs based upon the moment of  
20 silence provided for under subsection (a) and model curriculum  
21 guidelines.

22 (c) The Department of Education shall provide the model  
23 guidelines, voluntary in-service training and any other  
24 materials developed in accordance with this section to any  
25 nonpublic school within this Commonwealth upon receiving a  
26 request from the nonpublic school.

27 (d) For purposes of this section, the term "school entity"  
28 shall mean a school district, charter school, regional charter  
29 school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or career and  
30 technical school.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.