

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 AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, SEPTEMBER 8, 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 a
12 section to read:~~

13 SECTION 1. THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN <--
14 AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, IS AMENDED BY ADDING SECTIONS
15 TO READ:

16 Section 1555. Moment of ~~silence~~ SILENCE on September 11 <--
17 ~~anniversary~~ ANNIVERSARY.--(a) Beginning with school year 2020- <--
18 2021 and any subsequent school year when September 11 occurs on
19 a school day, each school entity shall conduct a moment of

1 silence during instructional hours for students and faculty to
2 observe the anniversary of September 11, 2001, as a remembrance
3 of the thousands of military service persons, government
4 employees, civilians and emergency responders who lost their
5 lives or were wounded by terrorist attacks on that date.

6 (b) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the Department
7 of Education shall make available to all school entities
8 voluntary in-service training programs based upon the moment of
9 silence provided for under subsection (a) and model curriculum <--
10 guidelines. <--

11 (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH A MODEL
12 CURRICULUM FOR INSTRUCTION IN THE EVENTS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF
13 SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, NO LATER THAN TWELVE (12) MONTHS AFTER THE
14 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION. THE MODEL CURRICULUM SHALL
15 INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS
16 WHERE APPROPRIATE:

17 (1) THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF TERRORISM.

18 (2) THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, THE
19 PENTAGON AND UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93 WHICH CRASHED IN
20 SHANKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.

21 (3) AMERICAN RECOVERY AND RESPONSE TO THE ATTACKS.

22 (4) GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND CONSEQUENCES IN A POST-SEPTEMBER
23 11 WORLD.

24 (D) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE ON THE
25 DEPARTMENT'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE CURRICULUM
26 MATERIALS AND OTHER AVAILABLE RESOURCES REGARDING THE EVENTS AND
27 SIGNIFICANCE OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, FOR VOLUNTARY USE BY SCHOOL
28 ENTITIES.

29 ~~(e)~~ (E) The Department of Education shall provide the model <--
30 guidelines CURRICULUM, voluntary in-service training and any <--

1 other materials developed in accordance with this section to any
2 nonpublic school within this Commonwealth upon receiving a
3 request from the nonpublic school.

4 (F) NOTHING IN SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D) SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO <--
5 REQUIRE A SCHOOL ENTITY OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TO IMPLEMENT, ADOPT
6 OR USE THE CURRICULUM, MATERIALS AND OTHER RESOURCES MADE
7 AVAILABLE BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS SECTION.

8 ~~(d)~~ (G) For purposes of this section, the term "school <--
9 entity" shall mean a school district, charter school, regional
10 charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area
11 career and technical school.

12 SECTION 1556. MOMENT OF SILENCE ON DECEMBER 7, PEARL HARBOR <--
13 DAY.-- (A) BEGINNING WITH SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022 AND ANY
14 SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL YEAR WHEN PEARL HARBOR DAY OCCURS ON A SCHOOL
15 DAY, EACH SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL CONDUCT A MOMENT OF SILENCE DURING
16 INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY TO OBSERVE THE
17 ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR DAY AS A REMEMBRANCE OF THE 3,546
18 MILITARY SERVICE PERSONS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES OR WERE WOUNDED BY
19 THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR ON DECEMBER 7, 1941.

20 (B) BEGINNING WITH THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT
21 OF EDUCATION SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE TO ALL SCHOOL ENTITIES
22 VOLUNTARY IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS BASED UPON THE MOMENT OF
23 SILENCE PROVIDED FOR UNDER SUBSECTION (A) AND MODEL CURRICULUM
24 GUIDELINES.

25 (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE THE MODEL
26 GUIDELINES, VOLUNTARY IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND ANY OTHER
27 MATERIALS DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION TO ANY
28 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH UPON RECEIVING A
29 REQUEST FROM THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

30 (D) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE TERM "SCHOOL ENTITY"

1 SHALL MEAN A SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL CHARTER
2 SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL, INTERMEDIATE UNIT OR CAREER AND
3 TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.