

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 242 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY DRISCOLL, SANCHEZ, NEILSON, HILL-EVANS, DAVIDSON, HOHENSTEIN, SCHWEYER, ISAACSON, KINKEAD, WEBSTER, FREEMAN, BURGOS, BRIGGS AND O'MARA, JANUARY 25, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 25, 2021

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 subjects of instruction and flag code  
 7 and for economic education and personal financial literacy  
 8 programs, providing for personal finance instruction and for  
 9 capstone course in personal finance as graduation requirement  
 10 and establishing the Personal Finance Education Fund; and  
 11 making an appropriation.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Section 1511 of the act of March 10, 1949  
 15 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
 16 amended to read:

17 Section 1511. Subjects of Instruction; Flag Code.--In every  
 18 elementary public and private school, established and maintained  
 19 in this Commonwealth, the following subjects shall be taught, in  
 20 the English language and from English texts: English, including  
 21 spelling, reading and writing, arithmetic, geography, the  
 22 history of the United States and of Pennsylvania, civics,

1 including loyalty to the State and National Government, personal  
2 finance, safety education, and the humane treatment of birds and  
3 animals, health, including physical education, and physiology,  
4 music and art. Other subjects shall be taught in the public  
5 elementary schools and also in the public high schools as may be  
6 prescribed by the standards of the State Board of Education. All  
7 such subjects, except foreign languages, shall be taught in the  
8 English language and from English texts: Provided, however,  
9 That, at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public  
10 Instruction, the teaching of subjects in a language other than  
11 English may be permitted as part of a sequence in foreign  
12 language study or as part of a bilingual education program if  
13 the teaching personnel are properly certified in the subject  
14 fields. Each school district shall provide and distribute to  
15 each pupil, enrolled in the eighth grade of the public schools,  
16 one illustrated copy of the National Flag Code, and shall, from  
17 time to time, make available such copies as are necessary for  
18 replacements from year to year. It shall be the duty of each  
19 teacher in the public schools to make such use of the code as  
20 may, from time to time, seem proper.

21 Section 2. Section 1551 of the act, amended October 30, 2019  
22 (P.L.460, No.76), is amended to read:

23 Section 1551. [Economic Education and Personal Financial  
24 Literacy] Personal Finance Education Programs.--(a) The  
25 department shall have the power and its duty shall be to:

26 [(1) Provide resource information on economics, economic  
27 education and personal financial literacy to educators and  
28 public and private schools and organizations.]

29 (1.1) Ensure that all recipients of a high school diploma in  
30 this Commonwealth are proficient in personal finance.

1 (1.2) Develop stand-alone kindergarten through grade twelve  
2 academic standards for personal finance that align with this  
3 section, sections 1551.1 and 1551.2 and 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4  
4 (relating to academic standards and assessment).

5 (1.3) Provide resource information on personal finance to  
6 educators and public and private schools and organizations.

7 (1.4) Within one year after the effective date of this  
8 paragraph, submit a report to the Education Committee of the  
9 Senate and the Education Committee of the House of  
10 Representatives with data on Statewide assessment results for  
11 questions relating to financial literacy.

12 (2) Provide for the distribution, including through the  
13 department's Internet website, to school entities or private,  
14 nonpublic, elementary or secondary schools in this Commonwealth,  
15 teacher curriculum materials and other available resources,  
16 including [economic] personal finance education [partnership]  
17 programs. [, on economic education and personal financial  
18 literacy, including the basic principle involved with earning,  
19 spending, saving and investing money. The materials shall align  
20 with and complement existing State standards for Economics,  
21 Family and Consumer Science, and Career Education and Work as  
22 set forth in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic standards  
23 and assessment).

24 (3) Identify and recognize Commonwealth schools that  
25 implement exemplary economic and economic education and personal  
26 financial literacy curricula at each benchmark as set forth in  
27 existing State standards for Economics, Family and Consumer  
28 Science, and Career Education and Work as set forth in 22 Pa.  
29 Code Ch. 4.] The materials shall align with State standards for  
30 personal finance education in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 that the

1 department develops in accordance with this act.

2 (4) Maintain an inventory of [economic education and  
3 personal financial literacy] personal finance materials,  
4 programs and resources available in Commonwealth agencies.

5 (b) In distributing materials and resources for use in  
6 schools, the department shall consider those currently available  
7 through international, national, Statewide and local economic,  
8 banking trade and personal finance education organizations.

9 [(c) (1) The department shall convene a task force on  
10 economic education and personal financial literacy education  
11 within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section.

12 (2) The task force shall consist of nine (9) members  
13 appointed by the secretary, in consultation with the Secretary  
14 of Banking, representing school administrators, finance or  
15 economics teachers, school boards, students, business leaders,  
16 faculty from this Commonwealth's institutions of higher  
17 education having a background in or knowledge of personal  
18 financial literacy and other groups with expertise in financial  
19 literacy education. The task force shall elect one (1) of its  
20 members to serve as chairperson.

21 (3) The task force shall:

22 (i) Assess the trends and needs in economic education and  
23 personal financial literacy.

24 (ii) Consider the manner in which any funds are used to  
25 support economic education and personal financial literacy  
26 activities.

27 (iii) Make recommendations to the Governor and the General  
28 Assembly regarding legislative or regulatory changes to improve  
29 economic education and personal financial literacy, pursuant to  
30 the preparation and submittal of the report required by

1 subsection (d).]

2 (c.1) (1) The Office of Personal Finance Education is  
3 established in the department to oversee personal finance  
4 education programs.

5 (2) The Office of Personal Finance Education shall:

6 (i) Assess the trends and needs in personal finance  
7 education.

8 (ii) After completing the assessment under subparagraph (i),  
9 assist in developing personal finance curricula in consultation  
10 with the State Treasurer, school administrators, finance or  
11 economics teachers, school boards, students, business leaders,  
12 faculty from this Commonwealth's institutions of higher  
13 education having a background in or knowledge of personal  
14 financial literacy and other groups with expertise in financial  
15 literacy education.

16 (iii) Create professional development programs for faculty  
17 to teach personal finance.

18 (iv) Make recommendations to the Governor and the General  
19 Assembly regarding legislative or regulatory changes to improve  
20 personal finance education and personal financial literacy,  
21 pursuant to the preparation and submittal of the report required  
22 by subsection (d).

23 (d) The secretary and the [Secretary of Banking] State  
24 Treasurer shall jointly prepare and submit[, in conjunction with  
25 the task force,] a biennial report to the Governor and the  
26 General Assembly on the status of [economic education and]  
27 personal financial literacy programs in this Commonwealth. In  
28 addition to the recommendations made in accordance with  
29 subsection [(c) (3) (iii)] (c.1) (2) (iv), the report shall outline  
30 [economic education and personal financial literacy] personal

1 finance education programs and personal financial literacy  
2 achievements, highlight new initiatives and recommend future  
3 program needs.

4 [(e) The department may apply for any Federal, State or  
5 other funding that may be available to carry out the provisions  
6 of this section and may also use such unencumbered funds for  
7 grants to school entities and other measures to encourage the  
8 implementation of economic education and personal financial  
9 literacy education programs.]

10 (e.1) The department may implement this section by  
11 distributing grants to school entities for personal finance  
12 education programs and professional development with funding  
13 from any of the following sources:

14 (1) A State appropriation.

15 (2) Any Federal, State or other source that may be available  
16 to carry out the provisions of this section.

17 (f) The following words and phrases when used in this  
18 section shall have the meanings given to them in this  
19 subsection:

20 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
21 Commonwealth.

22 ["Personal financial literacy." The integration of various  
23 factors relating to personal financial management, including  
24 understanding financial institutions, using money, learning to  
25 manage personal assets and liabilities, creating budgets and any  
26 other factors that may assist an individual in this Commonwealth  
27 to be financially responsible.]

28 "Personal finance." The principles and methods that  
29 individuals use to acquire and manage income and assets.

30 "Personal financial literacy." The ability to use knowledge

1 and skills to manage one's financial resources for lifetime  
2 financial security.

3 "School entity." A public school district, charter school,  
4 cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area career and  
5 technical school.

6 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

7 Section 3. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

8 Section 1551.1. Personal Finance Instruction.--(a)

9 Beginning with school year 2021-2022 and each school year  
10 thereafter, each public school student shall receive instruction  
11 in personal finance from kindergarten through grade twelve. The  
12 instruction shall be aligned to the kindergarten through grade  
13 twelve academic standards for personal finance and may be  
14 integrated within mathematics, economics, social studies,  
15 language arts, business education or family and consumer science  
16 courses of study required in accordance with the State Board of  
17 Education regulations. Instruction may also be integrated into  
18 other appropriate courses of study.

19 (b) The instruction shall:

20 (1) Be age appropriate.

21 (2) Be sequential in method of study.

22 (3) Communicate the connection between personal finance  
23 concepts, broader economic concepts and age-appropriate  
24 situations a student may experience.

25 (4) Communicate personal finance concepts, including, but  
26 not limited to, the following:

27 (i) Money management.

28 (ii) Earning income.

29 (iii) Borrowing money.

30 (iv) Financial services.

1 (v) Risk management.  
2 (vi) Saving and investing.  
3 (vii) Other personal finance concepts specified by the State  
4 Board of Education in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic  
5 standards and assessment).

6 (5) Prepare a student for life after graduation.

7 Section 1551.2. Capstone Course in Personal Finance as  
8 Graduation Requirement.--(a) The State Board of Education shall  
9 require every candidate for a full high school diploma after  
10 September 2021 to receive at least one (1) semester of  
11 instruction in a stand-alone capstone course relating to  
12 personal finance at some time during grade eleven or twelve of  
13 the candidate's educational career.

14 (b) In order to fulfill this graduation requirement, school  
15 districts may choose from several delivery options for offering  
16 the course, including classroom instruction, which shall be the  
17 equivalent of one (1) semester or one-half (0.5) credit, or as a  
18 standards-aligned, self-paced online or blended course which  
19 includes a district-approved, end-of-course assessment.

20 (c) Each school entity may utilize educational materials as  
21 provided for in section 1551 for the purpose of fulfilling this  
22 graduation requirement.

23 (d) The Department of Education shall make available and  
24 conduct professional development to school districts that  
25 request assistance in implementing the provisions of this  
26 section.

27 (e) As used in this section, the term "capstone course"  
28 means a course of study that:

29 (1) occurs during grade eleven or twelve of a student's high  
30 school career;



1 (2) is designed to bring reflection and focus to the whole  
2 of the student's learning throughout the student's years of  
3 education on a particular subject;

4 (3) is a comprehensive review of the subject matter being  
5 considered; and

6 (4) effectively culminates in each student demonstrating a  
7 comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

8 Section 1551.3. Personal Finance Education Fund.--(a) The  
9 Personal Finance Education Fund is established in the State  
10 Treasury. The money in the fund shall be used for grants under  
11 section 1551(e.1).

12 (b) The fund shall consist of all money collected by the  
13 Commonwealth under subsection (c) and money solicited by the  
14 State Treasurer under subsection (d).

15 (c) (1) The Department of Revenue shall provide a space on  
16 the Pennsylvania individual income tax return form whereby an  
17 individual may voluntarily designate a contribution of any  
18 amount desired to the Personal Finance Education Fund.

19 (2) The amount designated under paragraph (1) by an  
20 individual on the income tax return form shall be deducted from  
21 the tax refund to which that individual is entitled and shall  
22 not constitute a charge against the income tax revenues due to  
23 the Commonwealth.

24 (3) The Department of Revenue shall determine annually the  
25 total amount designated pursuant to this subsection, less  
26 reasonable administrative costs, and shall report the amount to  
27 the State Treasurer, who shall transfer the amount from the  
28 General Fund to the Personal Finance Education Fund.

29 (d) The State Treasurer shall solicit money for the Personal  
30 Finance Education Fund and may designate employes of the

1 Treasury Department to carry out this duty.

2       Section 4. The sum of \$3,000,000 is hereby appropriated to  
3 the Department of Education for the purpose of administering  
4 this act.

5       Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.