## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 365 | Session |
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| 2021 |

INTRODUCED BY HARKINS, GALLOWAY, SAMUELSON, SANCHEZ, FREEMAN, HILL-EVANS, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KINSEY, McNEILL, SCHLOSSBERG, MALAGARI, NEILSON, BRIGGS, LONGIETTI, SCHWEYER, FRANKEL, CIRESI, HOWARD, DELLOSO AND MCCLINTON, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," making editorial changes.

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

Section 1. Section 502 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, amended October 30, 2019 (P.L.460, No.76), is amended to read:

Section 502. Additional Schools and Departments.--In addition to the elementary public schools, the board of school directors in any school district may establish, equip, furnish, and maintain the following additional schools or departments for the education and recreation of persons residing in said district, and for the proper operation of its schools, namely:-High schools, Trade schools,
Career and technical schools,
Cafeterias,
Agricultural schools,
Evening schools,
Kindergartens,
Libraries,
Museums,
Reading-rooms,
Gymnasiums,
Playgrounds,
Schools for [physically and mentally handicapped] children
with physical or mental disabilities,
Truant schools,
Parental schools,
Schools for adults,
Public lectures,
Such other schools or educational departments as the
directors, in their wisdom, may see proper to establish.
Said additional schools or departments, when established,
shall be an integral part of the public school system in such
school district and shall be so administered.
No pupil shall be refused admission to the courses in these
additional schools or departments, by reason of the fact that
his elementary or academic education is being or has been
received in a school other than a public school.
Section 2. Sections 925(f), 923.2-A, 1328, 1338, 1376(a),
1377, 1377.1, 1379, 1502-E(b) and 2108 of the act are amended to
read:
Section 925. Powers and Duties.--
(f) (1) Any county board of school directors may make
contracts of insurance with any insurance company, or nonprofit hospitalization corporation, or nonprofit medical service corporation, authorized to transact business within the Commonwealth, insuring its employes, their spouses and dependents and retired employes under a policy or policies of group insurance covering life, health, hospitalization medical service, or accident insurance, and for such purposes may agree to pay part or all of the premiums or charges for carrying such contracts, and may include the cost of such charges in its estimate of the cost of operating and administering classes or schools for [handicapped and institutionalized] children with physical or mental disabilities to be operated by the county board during the ensuing school year. No contract or contracts of insurance authorized by this section shall be purchased from or through any person employed by the county board in a teaching or administrative capacity.
(2) The county board of school directors is hereby authorized to deduct from the employe's pay, salary, or compensation, such part of the premium as is payable by the employe and as may be so authorized by the employe in writing.
(3) All contracts procured hereunder shall conform and be subject to all the provisions of any existing or future laws concerning group insurance contracts.

Section 923.2-A. Visual Services.--(a) Legislative Finding; Declaration of Policy. [Defects] Impairments in vision are health-related. It is today recognized that the diagnosis and evaluation of those [defects] impairments and the rendering of instruction in skills appropriate for the education, safety and independence of children afflicted by visual impairments are closely related to their physical, mental and emotional health.

Such services can best be rendered upon the premises of the school which the child regularly attends and forcing children to go to other premises in order to have such needed services is found by the General Assembly to be both inadequate and harmful. The General Assembly expressly finds and declares diagnostic, evaluative and instructional services for such children to be health services and it is the intention of the General Assembly now to make these available, on a general and even-handed basis to all school children in the Commonwealth.
(b) Definitions. As used in this section:
"Nonpublic school" means any nonprofit school, other than a public school within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein a resident of the Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352).
"Visual services" means diagnostic, evaluative and instructional visual services for children.
(c) Provision of Services. The Secretary of Education, directly or through the intermediate units out of their allocation under section $922.1-A$ shall have the power and duty to furnish free to nonpublic school students, upon the premises of the nonpublic schools which they regularly attend, services adequate for the diagnosis and evaluation of visual [defects] impairments and instruction and training in skills advisable for the education, independence and safety of such children, including but not limited to mobility training, provided that such services are also afforded to public school students by the public school district in which such nonpublic school is located.

Section 1328. Compulsory Education of Children with Physical
[Defectives] Impairments.--Every parent, guardian, or other person, having control or charge of any child of compulsory school age who is deaf or blind, [or is so crippled,] or whose hearing or vision is so [defective] impaired as to make it impracticable to have such child educated in the public schools of the district in which he is a resident, shall allow such child to be sent to some school where proper provision is made for the education of the deaf, or of the blind, [or of crippled children,] or shall provide for the tuition of such child by a legally certified private tutor.

Section 1338. Dependent Children.--In case any child of compulsory school age cannot be kept in school in compliance with the provisions of this act, on account of incorrigibility, truancy, insubordination, or [other bad] inappropriate conduct, or if the presence of any child attending school is detrimental to the welfare of such school, on account of incorrigibility, truancy, insubordination, or [other bad] inappropriate conduct, the board of school directors may, by its superintendent, secretary, attendance officer or State, municipal, port authority, transit authority or housing authority police officer, under such rules and regulations as the board may adopt, proceed against said child before the juvenile court, or otherwise, as is now or may hereafter be provided by law for incorrigible, truant, insubordinate, or dependent children.

Section 1376. Cost of Tuition and Maintenance of Certain Exceptional Children in Approved Institutions.--(a) When any child between school entry age and twenty-one (21) years of age and resident in this Commonwealth, who is blind or deaf, or has cerebral palsy and/or neurological impairment and/or muscular dystrophy and/or is [mentally retarded] intellectually disabled
and/or has a serious emotional [disturbance] disability and/or has autism/pervasive developmental disorder and is enrolled, with the approval of the Department of Education, as a pupil in an approved private school approved by the Department of Education, in accordance with standards and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education, the school district in which such child is resident or, for students placed by a charter school, the charter school in which the student was enrolled shall pay the greater of either twenty per centum (20\%) of the actual audited cost of tuition and maintenance of such child in such school, as determined by the Department of Education, or its "tuition charge per elementary pupil" or its "tuition charge per high school pupil," as calculated pursuant to section 2561, and the Commonwealth shall pay, out of funds appropriated to the department for special education, the balance due for the costs of such child's tuition and maintenance, as determined by the department. For the school years 1989-1990, 1990-1991 and 1991-1992, the school district payment shall be no greater than forty percent (40\%) of the actual audited costs of tuition and maintenance of such child in such school. For the 1992-1993 school year through the 2003-2004 school year, the school district or charter school payment shall be the greater of forty percent (40\%) of the actual audited costs of tuition and maintenance of such child in such school, as determined by the Department of Education, or its "tuition charge per elementary pupil" or its "tuition charge per high school pupil," as calculated pursuant to section 2561 , and the Commonwealth shall pay, out of funds appropriated to the department for approved private schools, the balance due for the costs of such child's tuition and maintenance, as determined by

1 the department. For the 2004-2005 school year and each school
2 year thereafter, the school district or charter school payment shall be the greater of forty percent (40\%) of the approved tuition rate as established pursuant to subsection (c.3) or (c.5) or the school district or charter school's "tuition charges per elementary pupil" or "tuition charges per secondary pupil" as calculated under section 2561, and the Commonwealth shall pay out of funds appropriated to the department for approved private schools the balance of the approved tuition rate due for the cost of such child's tuition and maintenance. The department will credit the district of residence with average daily membership for such child consistent with the rules of procedure developed in accordance with section 2501. If the residence of such child in a particular school district cannot be determined, the Commonwealth shall pay the whole cost of tuition and maintenance of such child as established under subsection (c.3) or (c.5).

Section 1377. Payment of Cost of Tuition and Maintenance of Certain Exceptional Children.--(a) To facilitate payments by the several school districts to the schools or institutions in which children who are deaf or blind, or cerebral palsied and/or brain damaged and/or muscular dystrophied, or socially and emotionally [disturbed] disabled or [mentally retarded children] intellectually disabled are enrolled, of amounts due by such districts for their proportion of the cost of tuition and maintenance of such children, the Secretary of Education shall withhold from any moneys due to such districts out of any State appropriation for the assistance as reimbursement of school districts, the amounts due by such districts to such schools or
institutions for the blind or the deaf, or the cerebral palsied and/or brain damaged and/or muscular dystrophied or the socially and emotionally [disturbed] disabled and/or [mentally retarded] intellectually disabled. Amounts so withheld shall be specifically appropriated to the Department of Education.
(b) Payments of the Commonwealth's proportion of the cost of tuition and maintenance of pupils who are blind or deaf, or cerebral palsied and/or brain damaged and/or muscular dystrophied, or socially and emotionally [disturbed] disabled and/or [mentally retarded pupils] intellectually disabled and are enrolled in schools or institutions for the blind or for the deaf, or for the cerebral palsied and/or brain damaged and/or muscular dystrophied, or for the socially and emotionally [disturbed] disabled and of the cost of instruction of parents of blind pupils less than school entry age, as hereinbefore provided, shall be made quarterly, out of moneys appropriated to the Department of Education for special education. Except for the provisions of section 1376.1 providing for the actual cost of tuition and maintenance of certain exceptional children in the four chartered schools for education of the deaf and of the blind, in no event shall the total payment for the cost of tuition and maintenance of any such child exceed the rates per year allowed under section 1376. The maximum amount payable for the cost of tuition and maintenance of such children shall be subject to review at least once every two years for the purpose of recommending an adjustment thereof.
(c) For the purpose of enabling the Department of Education to determine from time to time what amounts are due to schools for the blind or for the deaf or for the cerebral palsied and/or brain damaged and/or muscular dystrophied or for the socially
and emotionally [disturbed] disabled and/or [mentally retarded] intellectually disabled hereunder, such schools shall forward to the department, at such times and in such form as the department shall prescribe, sworn statements setting forth the names, ages, and residences of all pupils enrolled hereunder, specifying the school districts liable for a part of the cost of tuition and maintenance of any such pupils, the per capita cost of and maintenance of pupils, and such other information as the department shall require.

For the purpose of providing adequate administration of the program and to carry out the preaudit functions authorized in section $1376(a)$, one-half of one percent (.50\%) of the total appropriations for approved private schools from all funds shall be allocated to the Department of Education.
(d) When, during the course of the 1982-1983 school year, programs for exceptional children are caused to be transferred from schools or institutions for the blind or deaf, or cerebral palsied or brain damaged or muscular dystrophied or [mentally retarded] intellectually disabled, or socially and emotionally [disturbed] disabled, as provided for in sections 1376 and 1376.1, to school districts or intermediate units, as provided for in sections 2509 and 2509.1, under unanticipated or emergency circumstances, and when such transfers necessitate the transfer of funds from the appropriation to the Department of Education for special education for approved private schools to the appropriation to the Department of Education for payments on account of special education of exceptional children in public schools, the Secretary of Education shall be empowered so to transfer such funds, upon approval of the secretary of the Budget and written notification to the State Treasurer and the
chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations and Education Committees.

Section 1377.1. Transfer of Funds for Transferal Programs.-When, during the course of a school year or after the end of a school year, programs for exceptional children are caused to be transferred from schools or institutions for the blind or deaf, or cerebral palsied or brain damaged or muscular dystrophied or [mentally retarded] intellectually disabled, or socially and emotionally [disturbed] disabled, as provided for in sections 1376 and 1376.1 , to school districts or intermediate units, as provided for in sections 2509 and 2509.1 , and when such transfers necessitate the transfer of funds from the appropriation to the Department of Education for special education for approved private schools to the appropriation to the Department of Education for payments on account of special education of exceptional children in public schools, the Secretary of Education shall be empowered to transfer such funds, upon approval of the Secretary of the Budget and written notification to the State Treasurer and the chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations and Education Committees.

Section 1379. Children Under Six with [Defective] Impaired Hearing; Parent or Guardian Advised of Schools, etc.--Whenever notified by the Department of Health of the case of a minor under six (6) years of age, who is totally deaf or whose hearing is impaired, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, when in his judgment the same is deemed desirable, shall communicate to the parent or guardian the location of any special schools, and also the nearest public school having special classes for the instruction of the hard of hearing, with the information concerning the advantages offered by such school or classes, the
benefits to accrue to the child from attending such school or classes, and the manner in which the expenses of such instruction will be provided for. Section 1502-E. Character education program.
(b) Curriculum contents.--The program may include and teach the following basic civil values and character traits:
(1) Trustworthiness, including honesty, integrity, reliability and loyalty.
(2) Respect, including regard for others, tolerance and courtesy.
(3) Responsibility, including hard work, economic selfreliance, accountability, diligence, perseverance and selfcontrol.
(4) Fairness, including justice, consequences of [bad] inappropriate behavior, principles of nondiscrimination and freedom from prejudice.
(5) Caring, including kindness, empathy, compassion, consideration, generosity and charity.
(6) Citizenship, including love of country, concern for the common good, respect for authority and the law and community mindedness.

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Section 2108. Qualifications of Principals and Teachers.-The board of public education in each school district of the first class shall prescribe the mode or modes of determining the qualifications of applicants for positions as principals or teachers in the schools of the district, and shall designate the kinds or grades of teachers' certificates which may or shall be used in the district, together with the scholastic,
professional, and personal qualifications required for each kind or grade of certificate.

No certificate shall be granted to any person who is not of good moral character, or to any person who shall not first have presented a certificate, from a physician recognized by the board of public education as competent for the purpose, setting forth that said applicant is neither mentally nor physically disqualified by reason of tuberculosis, or any other chronic or acute physical [defect] impairment, from successfully performing the duties of a teacher.

Section 3. Section 2501 (11) of the act, amended October 30, 2019 (P.L.460, No.76), is amended to read:

Section 2501. Definitions.--For the purposes of this article the following terms shall have the following meanings:
(11) "Actual Instruction Expense Per Elementary Teaching Unit, Actual Instruction Expense Per Elementary Teaching Unit in a Laboratory School of a State-owned College, Actual Instruction Expense Per Secondary Teaching Unit, Actual Instruction Expense Per Secondary Teaching Unit in a Laboratory School of a Stateowned College, Actual Instruction Expense Per Joint Elementary Teaching Unit, Actual Instruction Expense Per Joint Secondary Teaching Unit, Actual Instruction Expense Per Area Technical School Teaching Unit." In 1958 in the month of September and thereafter annually in the month of september, the Department of Education shall calculate for each school district for the immediately preceding school year the actual instruction expense per elementary teaching unit for elementary pupils educated in the district's public schools, the actual instruction expense per secondary teaching unit for secondary pupils educated in the
district's public schools, the actual instruction expense per joint elementary teaching unit for elementary pupils educated in elementary schools of jointures of which the district is a member, the actual instruction expense per joint secondary teaching unit for secondary pupils educated in secondary schools of jointures of which the district is a member, the actual instruction expense per area technical school teaching unit for pupils educated in area technical schools in which the district participates, the actual instruction expense per elementary teaching unit for elementary pupils residing in the district and educated in the public schools of other districts within the Commonwealth, and the actual instruction expense per secondary teaching unit for secondary pupils residing in the district and educated in the public schools of other districts within the Commonwealth. In each case, actual instruction expense per teaching unit shall be the sum of (i) and (ii) below but in no case shall include expenses for debt service, capital outlay, rentals of capital facilities and equipment, salaries and expenses for school nurses, for medical and dental services, for driver education courses, for reimbursable transportation of pupils, for tuition paid to other school districts, for reimbursable board and lodging in lieu of transportation, for salaries of directors and supervisors of special education, public school psychologists, principals of special schools and assistants, teachers of approved special classes for [physically and mentally handicapped] children with physical or mental disabilities, clerks and assistants employed in programs for special education, for school district contributions to the retirement fund on behalf of directors and supervisors of special education, public school psychologists, principals of
special schools and assistants, teachers of approved special classes for [physically and mentally handicapped] children with physical or mental disabilities, clerks and assistants employed in programs for special education, for the cost of textbooks and supplies of the second class used in special education classes or schools, for extension schools and classes, for extension recreation activities, for career and technical extension education, or for instruction of homebound children. (i) Expenses of general control per teaching unit. Expenses of general control shall include: salaries, supplies and other expenses of the secretary's office; commission or salary of treasurer, tax collector, auditors and legal service; expenses of census enumeration and other expenses of business administration; salaries of the superintendent of schools and clerks of the superintendent of schools; expenses of supplies and other expenses of the superintendent of schools' office; and other expenses of general control. In the case of computation of actual instruction expense per elementary teaching unit for district pupils educated in the schools of the district and for district pupils educated in the public schools of other districts within the Commonwealth and actual instruction expense per secondary teaching unit for district pupils educated in the schools of the district and for district pupils educated in the public schools of other districts within the Commonwealth, expenses of general control per teaching unit shall be calculated by dividing the foregoing listed expenses of general control of the school district by the number of teaching units based on the number of all pupils who are residents of the school district and are in average daily membership in the public schools of the Commonwealth. In the case of computation

1 of actual instruction expense per joint elementary teaching unit and actual instruction expense per joint secondary teaching unit, expenses of general control per teaching unit shall be calculated by dividing the foregoing listed expenses of general control of the school district by the number of teaching units based on the number of all pupils who are residents of the school district and are in average daily membership in the public schools of the Commonwealth, and adding thereto the quotient obtained by dividing the foregoing listed expenses of general control of the joint school district by the number of joint teaching units based on the number of pupils who are residents of school districts that are members of the joint school district and are in average daily membership in the schools of the joint school district. In the case of computation of actual instruction expense per area technical school teaching unit, expenses of general control per teaching unit shall be computed by dividing the foregoing listed expenses of general control of the school district by the number of teaching units based on the total number of all pupils who are residents of the school district and are in average daily membership in the public schools of the Commonwealth, and adding thereto the quotient obtained by dividing the foregoing listed expenses of general control of the area technical school by the number of area technical school teaching units based on the number of pupils who are residents of districts participating in the area technical school and are in average daily membership in the area technical school. (ii) Expenses of the school district, joint school district, area technical school, or such other school district within the Commonwealth in which the districts' pupils are educated, as the case may be, on account of instruction,
auxiliary agencies and coordinate activities, operation of school plant, maintenance of school plant, and fixed charges, and each separately for elementary and for secondary schools, per teaching unit, calculated by dividing the sums of (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) below by the numbers of elementary, secondary, joint elementary, joint secondary, and area technical school teaching units, respectively, based on the number of all pupils on an equivalent full-time basis in average daily membership in the public schools of the district, or joint district, or the area technical school, or other school district within the Commonwealth in which pupils of the district are educated, as the case may be; (a) expenses of instruction, to include salaries of supervisors and other expenses of supervisors, salaries of principals and principals' clerks, supplies of the principals' offices, other expenses of supervision, teachers' and teacher-librarians, salaries, textbooks, library books, supplies used in instruction including library supplies, expenses of attending teachers' institutes, commencement exercise and exhibit expenses, and other expenses of instruction, (b) expenses of auxiliary agencies and coordinate activities, to include salaries, books, repairs, replacements, and other expenses of public libraries, and non-reimbursable transportation and board and lodging in lieu of transportation, and provisions for tubercular and undernourished children, community lectures, social centers and recreation, enforcement of attendance, and other expenses of auxiliary agencies and coordinate activities, (c) expenses of operation of school plant, to include wages of janitors and other employes, fuel, water, light, power, janitors' supplies, care of grounds, services other than personal, telephone rental, and other
expenses of operation, (d) expenses of maintenance of school plant, to include upkeep of grounds, repair of buildings, repairs and replacements, heating, plumbing, lighting, apparatus used in instruction, furniture, and other equipment, (e) expenses of fixed charges, to include payments made to the retirement board, rent, all insurance, and other fixed charges: Provided, That the actual instruction expense for elementary teaching unit for district pupils educated in the elementary grades of a laboratory school of a state-owned college and the actual instruction expenses for secondary teaching unit for district pupils educated in the high school grades of a laboratory school of a State-owned college shall be computed by (i) dividing the total amount of money paid to the state-owned college by the resident district for the education of all resident elementary children enrolled in a laboratory school of a State-owned college by the number of such elementary teaching units based on the total number of such resident children in average daily membership in the laboratory school, (ii) dividing the total amount of money paid to the state-owned college by the resident district for the education of all resident secondary children enrolled in a laboratory school of a state-owned college by the number of such secondary teaching units based on the total number of such resident children in average daily membership in the laboratory school. The teaching units are computed on the basis of thirty (30) equivalent full time elementary children and twenty-two (22) equivalent full time secondary children.

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Section 4. Sections 2509(b), 2517 (e) and 2541 (b) (3) of the act are amended to read:

Section 2509. Payments on Account of Courses for Exceptional Children.--* * *
(b) To find the "instruction cost per special class pupil," add (1) salaries of directors and supervisors of special education, public school psychologists, principals of special schools and assistants, teachers of approved special classes for exceptional children, clerks and assistants employed in the district's program for special education, (2) the district's contribution to the retirement fund on behalf of directors and supervisors of special education, public school psychologists, principals of special schools and assistants, teachers of approved special classes for exceptional children, clerks and assistants employed in the district's program for special education, (3) the cost of textbooks and supplies of the second class used in the district's special education classes or schools, (4) the cost of telephonic system equipment which enables [handicapped] children with physical or mental disabilities to remain in their homes and still participate in classroom activities. Divide the sum of (1), (2), (3), and (4) on that part thereof which is approved by the Department of Education for reimbursement by the total number of pupils, including those pupils who have available for use telephonic system equipment whereby they may remain at home and still participate in classroom activities, in average daily membership in the district's approved special classes for exceptional children. The quotient so obtained shall be the "instruction cost per special class pupil."

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Section 2517. Payments.--* * *
(e) The Secretary of Education, with the approval of the

Governor, may make basic education funding allocation payments to school districts, in advance of the dates set forth in this section to school districts which are financially [handicapped] burdened, when the secretary deems it necessary to enable the school district to keep their public schools open.

Section 2541. Payments on Account of Pupil Transportation.-* * *
(b) Such payments for pupil transportation shall be made in the following cases:

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(3) To all school districts, for the transportation of [physically or mentally handicapped] children with physical or mental disabilities regularly enrolled in special classes approved by the Department of Education or enrolled in a regular class in which approved educational provisions are made for them.

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

