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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 712 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, GUZMAN, SANCHEZ, N. NELSON, HILL-EVANS,  
SCHWEYER, SAMUELSON, SCHLOSSBERG, KINKEAD, WEBSTER, FREEMAN,  
LONGIETTI, CIRESI AND DEASY, MARCH 1, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 1, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the Governor's School of Urban Teaching; and  
2 providing for duties of the Department of Education.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Governor's  
7 School of Urban Teaching Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative intent.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) It is the intent of the General Assembly to  
11 establish the permanent operation of the Governor's School of  
12 Urban Teaching at a university or college in this  
13 Commonwealth in order to show future generations of educators  
14 the challenges and rewards of teaching within an urban  
15 environment.

16 (2) The objectives of the program will be to attract  
17 gifted and talented students to the profession of teaching,

1 develop participants' teaching skills with an emphasis on  
2 teaching in an urban and diverse environment, examine current  
3 school practices and determine strategies to adapt these  
4 practices to better meet the needs of an urban teaching  
5 environment and encourage positive attitudes towards teaching  
6 as a career.

7 (3) The urban teaching program will achieve these goals  
8 by emphasizing creative thinking, problem solving and  
9 leadership skills.

#### 10 Section 3. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
15 Commonwealth.

16 "Governor's School of Urban Teaching." The school  
17 established by the department under section 4.

18 "Host site." A college or university where the Governor's  
19 School of Urban Teaching is located.

20 "Program." The urban teaching program provided by the  
21 Governor's School of Urban Teaching.

#### 22 Section 4. Governor's School of Urban Teaching.

23 The Governor's School of Urban Teaching is established within  
24 the department.

#### 25 Section 5. Duties of department.

26 (a) Establishment.--The department shall operate the  
27 Governor's School of Urban Teaching at a host site in this  
28 Commonwealth.

29 (b) Administration.--In administering the program, the  
30 department shall do all of the following:

1           (1) Make student applications available to every public  
2 and nonpublic school in this Commonwealth and include the  
3 application on the department's publicly accessible Internet  
4 website.

5           (2) Ensure that the Governor's School of Urban Teaching  
6 enables all qualified students the opportunity to enroll in  
7 the program regardless of race, sex, gender, sexual  
8 orientation, religion, nationality, socioeconomic status or  
9 creed.

10          (c) Scheduling.--The Governor's School of Urban Teaching  
11 shall be held, to the extent possible, during the summer months  
12 between the end and the beginning of the school year. The  
13 department may grant permission for the program to be held at  
14 other times during the school year when circumstances and  
15 programming options necessitate such a change.

16          (d) Costs.--Students attending the Governor's School of  
17 Urban Teaching shall not be required to pay any tuition or fees  
18 to attend and participate in the program. Students shall be  
19 responsible for their own costs relating to transportation to  
20 and from the school.

21 Section 6. Effective date.

22          This act shall take effect in 60 days.