

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 736 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY DALEY, FRANKEL, STURLA, SCHLOSSBERG, HANBIDGE, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, HOWARD, T. DAVIS, FREEMAN, WEBSTER, HOHENSTEIN, DRISCOLL, KINSEY, McNEILL, ISAACSON, GUENST, SOLOMON, SHUSTERMAN, LEE, ROZZI AND KINKEAD, MARCH 3, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 3, 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 providing for child abuse awareness and prevention.

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

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

12 Section 1529. Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention.--(a)
 13 Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, each school entity
 14 shall:

15 (1) Develop an age-appropriate child abuse awareness and
 16 prevention education program and incorporate the program into
 17 the school entity's existing curriculum for students in
 18 kindergarten through grade twelve. In developing the program,
 19 the school entity shall use the model curriculum developed by

1 the department under subsection (b) (1).

2 (2) Include training in child abuse awareness and prevention
3 in the professional development plan submitted by the school
4 entity to the secretary for approval under section 1205.1; which
5 shall provide four (4) hours of training every five (5) years
6 for professional educators assigned to teach courses into which
7 child abuse awareness and prevention education has been
8 incorporated under paragraph (1). Training under this paragraph
9 may be used to satisfy a professional educator's continuing
10 professional education requirement under section 1205.2. A
11 school entity shall use the materials made available by the
12 department under subsection (b) (2) to conduct the training.

13 (b) The department, in consultation with the Department of
14 Human Services and at least one organization addressing child
15 abuse, shall:

16 (1) Develop a model child abuse awareness and prevention
17 curriculum, which may include materials already publicly
18 available, and make the curriculum available to all school
19 entities and, upon request, to nonpublic schools.

20 (2) Compile, develop and post on its publicly accessible
21 Internet website recommended guidelines and educational
22 materials for the training provided for under subsection (a) (2),
23 which may include materials already publicly available.

24 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
25 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
26 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

27 "Department." The Department of Education of the
28 Commonwealth.

29 "Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a school
30 entity, where a resident of this Commonwealth may legally

1 fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of this
2 act and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil
3 Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

4 "Professional educator." As defined in section 1205.2(o).

5 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,
6 charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school,
7 intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school.

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

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.