

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 806 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, YOUNG, SANCHEZ, HOHENSTEIN, NEILSON,
GALLOWAY, MALAGARI, D. WILLIAMS, THOMAS, HILL-EVANS,
SCHLOSSBERG, ISAACSON, FREEMAN AND DeLUCA, MARCH 8, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 8, 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 preliminary provisions, providing
6 for Education Reform Commission.

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 129. Education Reform Commission.--(a) There is
13 established an Education Reform Commission for all of the
14 following purposes:

15 (1) To perform an in-depth study of the current educational
16 needs in this Commonwealth.

17 (2) To project the educational needs in this Commonwealth
18 over the next 25 years.

19 (3) To recommend reforms to the education system to prepare

1 this Commonwealth for the future.

2 (b) The following apply:

3 (1) The commission shall consist of all of the following
4 members:

5 (i) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
6 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and
7 minority chairperson of the Education Committee of the House of
8 Representatives, or their designees.

9 (ii) Two legislators from each of the four legislative
10 caucuses, to be appointed by the President pro tempore of the
11 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in
12 consultation with the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
13 Senate and the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the House
14 of Representatives.

15 (iii) The Secretary of Education or a designee.

16 (iv) The Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary
17 Education or a designee.

18 (v) An individual appointed by the Governor who is an
19 employee of the executive branch of the Commonwealth.

20 (vi) One representative of each of the following appointed
21 by the Governor:

22 (A) a current school director;

23 (B) a current school administrator;

24 (C) a current school business official;

25 (D) a current school principal;

26 (E) a current school educator; and

27 (F) a current public school student.

28 (2) The members of the commission shall select a member to
29 serve as chairperson of the commission.

30 (c) The commission shall hold its first meeting within 45

1 days of the effective date of this section, regardless of
2 whether the Governor or all legislative caucuses have nominated
3 members to the commission. The commission shall hold meetings at
4 the call of the chair.

5 (d) The members may not receive compensation for their
6 services but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel and
7 other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the
8 performance of their duties as members of the commission.

9 (e) The General Assembly shall provide administrative
10 support, meeting space and any other assistance required by the
11 commission to carry out the commission's duties under this
12 section in cooperation with the department. The department shall
13 provide the commission with data, research and other information
14 upon request by the commission.

15 (f) The commission shall have all of the following powers
16 and duties:

17 (1) Consider the following components of the education
18 system in this Commonwealth:

19 (i) Educational offerings and curriculum.

20 (ii) Staffing and equipment needs.

21 (iii) Extracurricular options.

22 (iv) Career and technical education.

23 (v) Construction and renovation needs.

24 (vi) Cost-saving opportunities.

25 (vii) Fair school board elections in every district.

26 (2) Review and make findings and recommendations related to
27 large-scale education reform in this Commonwealth.

28 (3) Review and make findings and recommendations related to
29 ensuring adequate and equitable school funding and equal access
30 to education for all students.

1 (4) Consult with and utilize experts to assist the
2 commission in carrying out the duties under this subsection.

3 (5) Hold public hearings across this Commonwealth.

4 (6) Review and consider education reform formulas and
5 factors utilized throughout the United States.

6 (7) Develop a proposed education reform formula and factors
7 in accordance with the provisions of subsection (h).

8 (8) Draft proposed legislation and regulations based on the
9 commission's findings.

10 (g) The commission shall issue a report of the commission's
11 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of
12 Education, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Majority
13 Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate, the Education
14 Committee of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the
16 House of Representatives, the Education Committee of the House
17 of Representatives and the State Board of Education not later
18 than one year after the effective date of this section.

19 (h) The education reform formula developed by the commission
20 shall not go into effect unless the formula is approved by an
21 act of the General Assembly enacted after the effective date of
22 this section.

23 (i) Every five years, the commission shall be reconstituted
24 in accordance with subsection (c), shall meet and hold public
25 hearings to review the operation of the education reform
26 provisions of this section, shall make a further report and
27 shall issue the report to the recipients listed in subsection
28 (g).

29 (j) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
30 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

1 "Commission." The Education Reform Commission established
2 under this section.

3 "Department." The Department of Education of the
4 Commonwealth.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.