

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1412 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY ROZZI, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, SANCHEZ, MERSKI, SIMS
AND PISCIOTTANO, MAY 14, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MAY 14, 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," providing for COVID-19 school
6 employee bonus.

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 an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XXVI-L

13 COVID-19 SCHOOL EMPLOYEE BONUS

14 Section 2601-L. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this article
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "COVID-19." The novel coronavirus as identified in the
19 proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on
20 March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and

1 any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

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

4 "Eligible period." The period beginning March 6, 2020, to
5 the latest emergency date ordered by the Governor.

6 "Eligible school employee." Includes, but is not limited to,
7 teachers, paraprofessionals, school counselors, school
8 psychologists, school nurses, custodians, bus drivers, school
9 nutrition staff, media specialists, clerical staff,
10 instructional coaches and therapists who worked at or for a
11 public school within this Commonwealth during the eligible
12 period.

13 "Program." The COVID-19 School Employee Bonus Program
14 established under section 2602-L(a).

15 Section 2602-L. COVID-19 School Employee Bonus Program.

16 (a) Establishment.--The COVID-19 School Employee Bonus
17 Program is established within the department to assist school
18 employees who worked during the COVID-19 pandemic. The start
19 date for the program shall commence on the date that the
20 department posts the application form on the department's
21 publicly accessible Internet website under subsection (c)(1).

22 (b) Appropriation.--From Federal amounts received by the
23 Commonwealth under Title IX, Subtitle M, Section 9901 of the
24 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat.
25 4), the sum of \$150,000,000 shall be distributed to the program.

26 (c) Applications.--The following shall apply:

27 (1) The department shall develop an application for
28 participation in the program and post the application form on
29 the department's publicly accessible Internet website. An
30 applicant shall verify the following information on the

1 application:

2 (i) The applicant's place of employment.

3 (ii) Whether the applicant worked full-time or part-
4 time during the eligible period.

5 (iii) Any other information required by the
6 department.

7 (2) In order to receive a direct payment under
8 subsection (e), an applicant must submit the application
9 under paragraph (1) to the department within 90 days of the
10 program's start date as specified under subsection (a).

11 (d) Verification.--The department shall verify with an
12 applicant's employer that the applicant worked during the
13 eligible period and the applicant's full-time or part-time work
14 status.

15 (e) Direct payments.--The following shall apply:

16 (1) Upon review and approval of the application
17 submitted under subsection (c) and any other documentation
18 required by the department, the department shall provide a
19 one-time direct payment to eligible school employees as
20 determined under paragraph (2).

21 (2) Upon the expiration of the application period under
22 subsection (c)(2), the department shall determine, using a
23 formula developed by the department, the amount of the direct
24 payments for full-time eligible school employees and for
25 part-time eligible school employees. The amount of the direct
26 payment for part-time eligible school employees may not
27 exceed 50% of the amount of the direct payment for full-time
28 eligible school employees.

29 (3) The department shall provide a direct payment to an
30 eligible school employee via mail or electronic deposit.

1 (f) Regulations.--The department may promulgate any
2 regulations necessary to implement the program.
3 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.