
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1252 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, HUGHES, COMITTA, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, COSTA,
YUDICHAK, J. WARD, STEFANO, KANE AND BARTOLOTTA, MAY 24, 2022

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 24, 2022

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,
6 establishing the Commission on Education and Economic
7 Competitiveness.

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

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

13 Section 123.1. Commission on Education and Economic
14 Competitiveness.--(a) The Commission on Education and Economic
15 Competitiveness is established.

16 (b) Membership shall be as follows:

17 (1) The commission shall consist of the following members:

18 (i) The Secretary of Education.

19 (ii) The Secretary of Labor and Industry.

20 (iii) The chair and minority chair of the Education

1 Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority chair of the
2 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

3 (iv) The chair and minority chair of the Labor and Industry
4 Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority chair of the
5 Labor and Industry Committee of the House of Representatives.

6 (v) Two (2) legislators from each of the four (4) caucuses
7 to be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate and
8 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation
9 with the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate
10 and the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the House of
11 Representatives.

12 (2) The commission shall appoint a member to serve as chair
13 of the commission and shall designate two (2) members who shall
14 serve as chairs of the subcommittee.

15 (c) The Subcommittee on Education Planning is established
16 within the commission. The subcommittee shall consult with the
17 commission for advisement on the long-term education goals of
18 the Commonwealth, including interim goals. The membership of the
19 subcommittee shall consist of the following members:

20 (1) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development or a
21 designee.

22 (2) The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Child Development
23 and Early Learning.

24 (3) The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Elementary and
25 Secondary Education.

26 (4) The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Postsecondary and
27 Higher Education.

28 (5) The Deputy Secretary for Workforce Development.

29 (6) Two (2) members of the commission.

30 (7) One member representing each of the following

1 organizations:

2 (i) The Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

3 (ii) The Pennsylvania State Education Association.

4 (iii) The Pennsylvania chapter of the American Federation of
5 Teachers.

6 (iv) The Pennsylvania Association of School Business
7 Officials.

8 (v) The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators.

9 (vi) The Pennsylvania Principals Association.

10 (vii) The Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units.

11 (viii) The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher
12 Educators.

13 (ix) The Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small
14 Schools.

15 (x) The Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools.

16 (xi) The African American Charter School Coalition.

17 (xii) The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

18 (xiii) The Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical
19 Administrators.

20 (xiv) The Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools.

21 (xv) The State System of Higher Education.

22 (xvi) The Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges.

23 (xvii) The Association of Independent Colleges and
24 Universities of Pennsylvania.

25 (xviii) The Pennsylvania State University.

26 (xix) The University of Pittsburgh.

27 (xx) Temple University.

28 (xxi) Lincoln University.

29 (xxii) Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

30 (xxiii) The Pennsylvania College of Technology.

1 (xxiv) The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry.

2 (xxv) The Pennsylvania American Federation of Labor and
3 Congress of Industrial Organizations.

4 (xxvi) The Manufacturers' Association.

5 (xxvii) The National Federation of Independent Business
6 Pennsylvania.

7 (xxviii) The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

8 (xxix) The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of
9 Pennsylvania.

10 (xxx) The Service Employees International Union Pennsylvania
11 State Council.

12 (xxxi) The Arc of Pennsylvania.

13 (xxxii) The National Association for the Advancement of
14 Colored People Pennsylvania State Conference.

15 (xxxiii) The Spanish American Civic Association.

16 (8) Any members added by the commission under subsection
17 (d).

18 (d) The commission may add additional membership to the
19 subcommittee and create subgroups within the subcommittee.

20 (e) Members may not receive compensation for their services
21 but shall be reimbursed for necessary travel and other
22 reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the performance
23 of their duties as members of the commission.

24 (f) The following shall apply to meetings:

25 (1) The commission shall hold its first meeting by February
26 17, 2023, and shall meet no less than quarterly.

27 (2) The subcommittee shall hold its first meeting by March
28 6, 2023, and shall hold monthly meetings.

29 (g) The commission and subcommittee may utilize the
30 expertise of a nonprofit entity that has experience in the

1 creation of long-term education planning efforts. The General
2 Assembly shall appropriate sufficient funding to carry out the
3 provisions of this section.

4 (h) The following shall apply to duties:

5 (1) The subcommittee shall hold monthly meetings to make
6 recommendations regarding long-term educational goals for the
7 following:

8 (i) Early childhood education and necessary supports.

9 (ii) An aligned instructional system with special attention
10 to curriculum, assessment, pedagogical approach and standards
11 that span early childhood education through career and technical
12 education and higher education.

13 (iii) Education environments that are conducive for each
14 student to learn, including school infrastructure.

15 (iv) Equitable access to education and educational resources
16 to ensure that students with unique needs are successful.

17 (v) A holistic approach to education that includes a focus
18 on development of well-rounded individuals through research
19 based competencies and dispositions associated with
20 postsecondary education, career and life-readiness.

21 (vi) Professional work environments for educators, support
22 staff and school employees in kindergarten through grade twelve
23 schools.

24 (vii) Creation of a leadership development system for
25 kindergarten through grade twelve schools.

26 (viii) Recruitment and attainment of high-performing
27 educators.

28 (ix) Community partnerships in the education system.

29 (x) Meeting the employment needs of this Commonwealth.

30 (xi) Creation of a system that effectively re-tools

1 displaced workers.

2 (xii) Addressing the impact of this Commonwealth's changing
3 demographics.

4 (xiii) Effective governance and accountability.

5 (2) The subcommittee shall hold a series of hearings
6 throughout this Commonwealth to gather feedback on stated topics
7 from representatives of this Commonwealth's major industries,
8 including agriculture, health care, banking, steel, industrial
9 machinery and publishing.

10 (3) The subcommittee shall make regular reports to the
11 commission and issue a final report with legislative
12 recommendations within twelve (12) months of the subcommittee's
13 creation.

14 (4) The subcommittee shall include in its report under
15 paragraph (3) recommendations on parent and community
16 participation in the education system and the challenges and
17 opportunities Pennsylvania's changing demographics present to
18 the Commonwealth's education system.

19 (5) Upon receipt of the report from the subcommittee, the
20 commission shall seek public comment on the proposed long-term
21 vision for a period that is no less than three (3) months and
22 issue a final report with legislative recommendations to the
23 General Assembly within eighteen (18) months of the commission's
24 creation.

25 (6) Upon the issuance of the final report under paragraph
26 (5), the commission and the subcommittee shall terminate and the
27 utilization of the expertise of a nonprofit entity under
28 subsection (g) shall terminate.

29 (7) Upon the start of the first legislative session of each
30 decade, the commission and subcommittee shall be reconstituted

1 in accordance with this section and shall perform the
2 requirements of this section.

3 (i) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
4 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
5 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 "Commission." The Commission on Education and Economic
7 Competitiveness.

8 "Subcommittee." The Subcommittee on Education Planning.

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.