

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1743 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY MADDEN, PROBST, HILL-EVANS, SHUSTERMAN, T. DAVIS, ROZZI, VITALI, SANCHEZ, GUENST, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, SALISBURY, DONAHUE, PASHINSKI, GREEN, D. WILLIAMS, OTTEN, BOYD, STENDER, TAKAC, KAZEEM, WEBSTER AND MADSEN, OCTOBER 4, 2023

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAY 21, 2024

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 school directors, further
6 providing for school director training programs.

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

9 Section 1. Section 328(a) of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
11 amended to read:

12 Section 328. School Director Training Programs.--(a)
13 Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year and in each school year
14 thereafter, the following shall apply:

15 (1) Each newly elected or appointed school director shall
16 complete, during the first year of the school director's first
17 term, a training program [made available by the Department of
18 Education, in consultation with a Statewide organization

1 representing school directors and a Statewide organization
2 representing school business officials,], AS OUTLINED IN <--
3 PARAGRAPH (3) AND THAT HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE
4 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR LEGAL COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE
5 FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS, pertaining to the skills
6 and knowledge necessary to serve as a school director. The
7 training program shall consist of a minimum of five (5) hours of
8 instruction, including, at a minimum, information regarding the
9 following:

- 10 (i) Instruction and academic programs.
- 11 (i.1) Best practices related to trauma-informed approaches,
12 which shall comprise a minimum of one (1) hour of instruction.
- 13 (ii) Personnel.
- 14 (iii) Fiscal management.
- 15 (iv) Operations.
- 16 (v) Governance.
- 17 (vi) Ethics and open meetings, to include the requirements
18 under 65 Pa.C.S. Pt. II (relating to accountability).
- 19 (2) Within one (1) year after each reelection or
20 reappointment to the board of school directors, each school
21 director shall complete an advanced training program [made
22 available by the Department of Education in consultation with a
23 Statewide organization representing school directors and a
24 Statewide organization representing school business officials.
25 The advanced training program], AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH (3) AND <--
26 THAT HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
27 EDUCATION FOR LEGAL COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND
28 STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS, which shall consist of a minimum of
29 three (3) hours of instruction, including information on
30 relevant changes to Federal and State [public school] law and <--

1 regulations, fiscal management, trauma-informed approaches and
2 other information deemed appropriate by the Department of
3 Education to enable the school director to serve effectively.

4 (3) The training programs required under this subsection
5 shall be made available by the Department of Education [at no
6 cost to school districts or school directors. The Department of
7 Education shall approve alternative training programs that
8 fulfill the requirements of this subsection which may be
9 provided by school districts, intermediate units, postsecondary
10 institutions or Statewide education organizations. The
11 department shall post on its publicly accessible Internet
12 website all alternative training programs approved under this
13 paragraph.] which shall contract with AUTHORIZE a Statewide <--
14 education organization that represents school directors to <--
15 administer the training programs. AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE (75) PER <--
16 CENTUM OF SCHOOL BOARDS, HAS EXPERIENCE PROVIDING TRAINING THAT
17 MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION AND HAS ACTED AS A
18 STATEWIDE PROVIDER FOR AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS. The Statewide
19 education organization which represents school directors shall
20 have the following duties:

21 (i) Prepare and offer the APPROVED training programs at no <--
22 cost to school districts or school directors.

23 (ii) Recommend quality alternative training programs to the
24 Department of Education that fulfill the requirements of this
25 subsection and that are consistent with the training programs
26 offered by the Statewide education organization which represents
27 school directors, which may be provided by school districts,
28 intermediate units, postsecondary institutions or other
29 Statewide education organizations. Training programs provided
30 under this subparagraph MUST BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE <--

1 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR LEGAL COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE
2 FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND shall be offered at
3 no cost to a school district or school director.

4 (3.1) The Department of Education shall post the
5 requirements of this subsection and information on where to
6 access the training programs provided for under paragraph (3) (i)
7 on the Department of Education's publicly accessible Internet
8 website.

9 (3.2) The Department of Education shall approve only
10 alternative training programs recommended by the Statewide
11 education organization under paragraph (3) (ii) and post
12 information on alternative training programs on the Department
13 of Education's publicly accessible Internet website. Approval of
14 alternative training programs shall expire two (2) years
15 following the date of approval and may be renewed in accordance
16 with this section.

17 (4) This subsection shall apply to members of a school
18 reform commission established under section 696, provided that
19 the training programs provided to members of a school reform
20 commission shall include information regarding sections 693 and
21 696 and other information deemed appropriate to enable a member
22 of a school reform commission to serve effectively.

23 (5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
24 prohibit a Statewide education organization representing school
25 directors from offering different training programs or other
26 learning activities in addition to the training programs
27 required under this subsection at an additional cost to a school
28 district or school director.

29 (6) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL DEEM THE STATEWIDE
30 EDUCATION ORGANIZATION AS A STATE-AFFILIATED ENTITY.

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1 (7) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE
2 DUTY AND AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADMINISTER
3 ALL LAWS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT,
4 MAINTENANCE AND CONDUCT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
5 FEDERAL AND STATE LAW, INCLUDING SECTION 1302 OF THE ACT OF
6 APRIL 9, 1929 (P.L.177, NO.175), KNOWN AS "THE ADMINISTRATIVE
7 CODE OF 1929."

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