

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 67 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY BURNS, READSHAW AND V. BROWN, JANUARY 23, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 23, 2017

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 duties and powers of boards of
 6 school directors, establishing parent involvement programs
 7 and policies in school districts; and, in school health
 8 services, establishing the school health services task force.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

10 hereby enacts as follows:

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

14 Section 528. Parent Involvement Programs and Policies.--(a)
 15 The board of school directors in a school district of the first
 16 class, first class A, second class, third class or fourth class
 17 shall establish a parent involvement program, parent involvement
 18 policy and parent involvement committee. No school entity may be
 19 required to establish a new program or policy under this section
 20 if one currently exists and reasonably fulfills the requirements
 21 of this section.

1 (b) A parent involvement program established by a board of
2 school directors shall identify all of the following:

3 (1) Existing resources, activities or materials in the
4 school district that may be used by parents to improve the
5 academic achievement of students in the school district.

6 (2) Existing resources, activities or materials in the
7 school district that may be used by parents to improve or
8 supplement techniques used by parents at home to support and
9 improve the academic achievement of students in the school
10 district.

11 (3) A districtwide system of communicating information
12 between parents and school officials regarding the curriculum,
13 academic goals and strategic plan of the school district.

14 (4) Any supplemental academic services available to students
15 whose score on any Pennsylvania System of School Assessment test
16 is below proficient.

17 (5) Any mechanism through which parents can provide
18 recommendations to the board of school directors regarding
19 programs that may improve the academic achievement of students
20 in the school district.

21 (6) Any mechanism through which the school district can
22 provide information to parents regarding resources, activities
23 or materials in the school district that may be used by parents
24 to improve the academic achievement of their students.

25 (c) A parent involvement policy established by a board of
26 school directors shall include all of the following:

27 (1) Identification of goals and objectives for the
28 involvement of parents in the improvement of the academic
29 achievement of students in the school district.

30 (2) Identification of specific strategies to meet the goals

1 and objectives required under paragraph (1).

2 (3) Explanation of the resources, activities, materials and
3 mechanisms identified in the parent involvement program.

4 (4) Explanation of the role of the parent involvement
5 committee established under subsection (d).

6 (d) A parent involvement committee established by a board of
7 school directors shall consist of parents of students enrolled
8 in the school district and shall be responsible for providing
9 the board of school directors with recommendations on the school
10 district's parent involvement program and parent involvement
11 policy. If a school district currently has established a
12 committee of parents that makes recommendations on school
13 policies, the board of school directors may utilize that
14 committee to meet the requirements of this subsection.

15 (e) A board of school directors shall provide for the
16 publication and dissemination of information related to the
17 school district's parent involvement program and parent
18 involvement policy. The board of school directors shall:

19 (1) Provide a copy of the parental involvement policy to the
20 parent or guardian of each student enrolled in the district.

21 (2) Make copies of the parent involvement program and parent
22 involvement policy available for inspection in the
23 administrative office of the school district and provide copies
24 upon request.

25 (3) Provide copies of the parent involvement program and
26 parent involvement policy to the Department of Education no
27 later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this
28 section.

29 Section 1425. School Health Services Task Force.--(a) The
30 General Assembly finds that:

1 (1) School health personnel deliver valuable services that
2 address the physical, mental, emotional and social health of
3 their students.

4 (2) The ways and means by which those health services are
5 provided vary across school districts and regions across this
6 Commonwealth.

7 (3) While student health issues are increasing in
8 complexity, earlier this decade the number of school nurse
9 certificates issued by the Department of Education showed a
10 trend to decline, and State subsidies for school district health
11 services have remained relatively flat over the past five years.

12 (4) Studies project a shortage of registered nurses in
13 Pennsylvania, and nationally school districts face numerous
14 challenges in providing health services to students.

15 (b) There is established a task force on school health
16 services. The task force shall consist of the following
17 individuals:

18 (1) Two members of the Senate, one each to be chosen by the
19 President pro tempore and the Minority Leader of the Senate.

20 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives, one each
21 chosen by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the
22 House of Representatives.

23 (3) One member chosen by the Secretary of Education from
24 among persons recommended by the Department of Education.

25 (4) One representative from each of the following:

26 (i) An organization representing school nurses.

27 (ii) An organization representing school board directors.

28 (iii) An organization representing school administrators.

29 (iv) An organization representing school business officials.

30 (v) An organization representing school principals.

1 (c) The members shall be appointed within thirty (30) days
2 of the effective date of this section. A majority of the members
3 of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
4 of business. Official action by the task force shall require the
5 approval of a majority of the members of the task force. The
6 task force shall elect one of its members to serve as
7 chairperson. If there is a vacancy for any cause, a replacement
8 shall be appointed in the same way with the same qualifications
9 as set forth in this section and shall hold office for the
10 unexpired portion of the term. Members of the task force shall
11 not be entitled to compensation or reimbursement and shall serve
12 as volunteers on the task force.

13 (d) The task force shall convene no later than sixty (60)
14 days after the effective date of this section. The task force is
15 authorized to hold hearings, take testimony and make its
16 investigations at such places in this Commonwealth as it deems
17 necessary. The task force shall meet at such times and places
18 specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the
19 members of the task force. In undertaking its investigations
20 regarding school health services, the task force shall do all of
21 the following:

22 (1) Adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task
23 force.

24 (2) Meet and conduct hearings with representatives of the
25 public school districts of this Commonwealth, including, but not
26 limited to, school administrators and school health providers,
27 school board members, representatives of the Department of
28 Education and the Department of Health and other health
29 officials and medical professionals.

30 (3) Identify, evaluate and make recommendations on topics

1 involved with school health care, including, but not limited to,
2 the following:

3 (i) The number of school nurse certifications issued
4 annually by the Department of Education over the last ten years.

5 (ii) The number of waivers and emergency certification
6 permits issued for school nurses annually by the Department of
7 Education over the last ten years, both across this Commonwealth
8 and by region.

9 (iii) The number of other school health personnel employed
10 over the last ten years by districts under Article XIV.

11 (iv) The cost of delivering school health services mandated
12 by law and as otherwise provided by the district.

13 (v) Availability and coordination of Federal and State
14 funding for school nurse services.

15 (vi) Best practices to improve school health services in
16 this Commonwealth's public schools.

17 (vii) Alternative health care services, programs and
18 staffing options that could assist school districts in offering
19 a flexible and comprehensive delivery of school health services
20 in this Commonwealth's public schools.

21 (4) Make and transmit a report of its activities, findings
22 and recommendations, including possible legislation, to the
23 chairperson of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of the
24 Senate, the chairperson of the Education Committee of the
25 Senate, the chairperson of the Health Committee of the House of
26 Representatives and the chairperson of the Human Services
27 Committee of the House of Representatives and the chairperson of
28 the Education Committee of the House of Representatives within
29 one year of the task force's first meeting.

30 (e) The Department of Education and the Department of Health

1 shall provide staff support to the task force.

2 (f) The task force shall cease to exist upon the receipt by
3 all four committee chairpersons of the task force's report as
4 described in subsection (d)(4), unless it is reestablished by
5 action of the General Assembly.

6 (g) As used in this section:

7 "School nurse" shall have the same meaning as under section
8 1401.

9 "Task force" means the task force on school health services
10 established under this section.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect as follows:

12 (1) The addition of section 528 of the act shall take
13 effect in 180 days.

14 (2) The addition of section 1425 of the act shall take
15 effect in 60 days.

16 (3) This section shall take effect immediately.