

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, GAYDOS AND BOYD, OCTOBER 4, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 4, 2023

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
 19 representing school directors and a Statewide organization

1 representing school business officials,] pertaining to the
2 skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a school director.
3 The training program shall consist of a minimum of five (5)
4 hours of instruction, including, at a minimum, information
5 regarding the following:

6 (i) Instruction and academic programs.

7 (i.1) Best practices related to trauma-informed approaches,
8 which shall comprise a minimum of one (1) hour of instruction.

9 (ii) Personnel.

10 (iii) Fiscal management.

11 (iv) Operations.

12 (v) Governance.

13 (vi) Ethics and open meetings, to include the requirements
14 under 65 Pa.C.S. Pt. II (relating to accountability).

15 (2) Within one (1) year after each reelection or
16 reappointment to the board of school directors, each school
17 director shall complete an advanced training program [made
18 available by the Department of Education in consultation with a
19 Statewide organization representing school directors and a
20 Statewide organization representing school business officials.

21 The advanced training program] which shall consist of a minimum
22 of three (3) hours of instruction, including information on
23 relevant changes to Federal and State public school law and
24 regulations, fiscal management, trauma-informed approaches and
25 other information deemed appropriate by the Department of
26 Education to enable the school director to serve effectively.

27 (3) The training programs required under this subsection
28 shall be made available by the Department of Education [at no
29 cost to school districts or school directors. The Department of
30 Education shall approve alternative training programs that

1 fulfill the requirements of this subsection which may be
2 provided by school districts, intermediate units, postsecondary
3 institutions or Statewide education organizations. The
4 department shall post on its publicly accessible Internet
5 website all alternative training programs approved under this
6 paragraph.] which shall contract with a Statewide education
7 organization that represents school directors to administer the
8 training programs. The Statewide education organization which
9 represents school directors shall have the following duties:

10 (i) Prepare and offer the training programs at no cost to
11 school districts or school directors.

12 (ii) Recommend quality alternative training programs to the
13 Department of Education that fulfill the requirements of this
14 subsection and that are consistent with the training programs
15 offered by the Statewide education organization which represents
16 school directors, which may be provided by school districts,
17 intermediate units, postsecondary institutions or other
18 Statewide education organizations. Training programs provided
19 under this subparagraph shall be offered at no cost to a school
20 district or school director.

21 (3.1) The Department of Education shall post the
22 requirements of this subsection and information on where to
23 access the training programs provided for under paragraph (3)(i)
24 on the Department of Education's publicly accessible Internet
25 website.

26 (3.2) The Department of Education shall approve only
27 alternative training programs recommended by the Statewide
28 education organization under paragraph (3)(ii) and post
29 information on alternative training programs on the Department
30 of Education's publicly accessible Internet website. Approval of

1 alternative training programs shall expire two (2) years
2 following the date of approval and may be renewed in accordance
3 with this section.

4 (4) This subsection shall apply to members of a school
5 reform commission established under section 696, provided that
6 the training programs provided to members of a school reform
7 commission shall include information regarding sections 693 and
8 696 and other information deemed appropriate to enable a member
9 of a school reform commission to serve effectively.

10 (5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
11 prohibit a Statewide education organization representing school
12 directors from offering different training programs or other
13 learning activities in addition to the training programs
14 required under this subsection at an additional cost to a school
15 district or school director.

16 * * *

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