

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1408 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, CUTLER, ROCK, CLAY, THOMAS, LUCAS, ROSS, WATERS, EVERETT, ROEBUCK AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 16, 2013

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 16, 2013

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," further providing for the Office of  
6 Safe Schools.~~

7 AMENDING THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), ENTITLED "AN <--  
8 ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, INCLUDING CERTAIN  
9 PROVISIONS APPLICABLE AS WELL TO PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL  
10 SCHOOLS; AMENDING, REVISING, CONSOLIDATING AND CHANGING THE  
11 LAWS RELATING THERETO," IN TERMS AND COURSES OF STUDY,  
12 PROVIDING FOR FIREARM SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 ~~Section 1. Section 1302 A(b) of the act of March 10, 1949 <--  
16 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
17 amended by adding a paragraph to read:~~

18 ~~Section 1302 A. Office for Safe Schools. \* \* \*~~

19 ~~(b) The office shall have the power and duty to implement  
20 the following:~~

21 ~~\* \* \*~~

22 ~~(1.1) To assist the board of any school entity that may~~

~~1 elect to provide firearm safety education programs for students  
2 in the elementary school grades. To assist school entities  
3 electing to provide firearm safety education programs by  
4 establishing curriculum guidelines for a standardized program of  
5 firearm safety education for the elementary school grades to  
6 promote the protection and safety of children enrolled in public  
7 schools. The curriculum guidelines shall incorporate, among  
8 other principles of firearm safety, accident prevention and  
9 rules upon which the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program offered by the  
10 National Rifle Association is based. School entities electing to  
11 provide firearm safety education shall offer instruction  
12 pursuant to the office's curriculum guidelines and shall  
13 integrate firearm safety education into appropriate subject  
14 areas, if feasible, to ensure that every elementary grade  
15 student completes the course of study in firearm safety  
16 education.~~

17 \* \* \*

18 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 180 days.~~

19 SECTION 1. THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN <--  
20 AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, IS AMENDED BY ADDING A  
21 SECTION TO READ:

22 SECTION 1554. FIREARM SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM.--(A) TO  
23 ASSIST SCHOOL ENTITIES THAT VOLUNTARILY ELECT TO PROVIDE FIREARM  
24 SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH  
25 GRADE EIGHT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH ITS  
26 OFFICE FOR SAFE SCHOOLS AND THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE,  
27 DEVELOP CURRICULUM GUIDELINES FOR A STANDARDIZED PROGRAM OF  
28 FIREARM SAFETY EDUCATION FOR THE STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN  
29 THROUGH GRADE EIGHT TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF  
30 CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

1 SHALL INCORPORATE, AMONG OTHER PRINCIPLES OF FIREARM SAFETY,  
2 ACCIDENT PREVENTION AND RULES UPON WHICH THE EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE  
3 PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION IS BASED.

4 (B) SCHOOL ENTITIES VOLUNTARILY ELECTING TO PROVIDE FIREARM  
5 SAFETY EDUCATION SHALL OFFER INSTRUCTION PURSUANT TO THE  
6 DEPARTMENT'S CURRICULUM GUIDELINES.

7 (C) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES  
8 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION:

9 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE  
10 COMMONWEALTH.

11 "SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT,  
12 CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL,  
13 INTERMEDIATE UNIT OR AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

14 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 180 DAYS.