
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1381 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, EMRICK, GIBBONS, GROVE,
J. HARRIS, MENTZER, MILLARD, ZIMMERMAN, D. COSTA AND RADER,
JUNE 24, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 24, 2015

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, providing for
6 county-wide board of school directors pilot program.

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

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

12 Section 328. County-Wide Board of School Directors Pilot
13 Program.--(a) The General Assembly finds and declares as
14 follows:

15 (1) The Commonwealth's system of public education is
16 presently comprised of five hundred (500) independently
17 operating school districts.

18 (2) School districts are governed by locally elected school
19 boards, which are responsible for establishing educational

1 programs and local policies, maintaining school buildings and
2 developing and approving school district budgets, including the
3 imposition of a local property tax.

4 (3) It is important that school board members be informed in
5 making decisions for their school districts and be encouraged to
6 pursue creative solutions that both enhance educational
7 opportunities for their students and use taxpayer resources
8 efficiently and effectively.

9 (4) Collaboration among school board members representing
10 neighboring school districts should increase in order to
11 leverage ideas and resources.

12 (5) It is the intent of this section to foster increased
13 collaborative decision-making among school boards by creating a
14 pilot program that will consolidate school boards to the county-
15 wide level.

16 (b) Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this
17 section, the Secretary of Education shall designate a county of
18 the fourth class in which shall be established a county-wide
19 board of school directors that shall have the power and duty to
20 govern each school district which is located in whole or in part
21 within the county. In designating a county of the fourth class
22 under this subsection, the secretary shall consider the local
23 tax effort of the school districts within the county to be
24 designated, including whether the equalized millage rate of each
25 school district is greater than the Statewide average equalized
26 millage rate.

27 (c) Within one (1) year of the effective date of this
28 section, notwithstanding any other provision of law or
29 regulation to the contrary, all powers and duties of the board
30 of school directors of each school district that is located in

1 whole or in part within the county designated under subsection
2 (b) shall be vested in a county-wide board of school directors
3 to be established pursuant to subsection (d).

4 (d) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the county-wide
5 board of school directors established under this section shall
6 consist of two (2) members representing each school district
7 which is located in whole or in part within the county
8 designated under subsection (b). Each qualified voter residing
9 in a school district to be governed by the county-wide board of
10 school directors shall be entitled to cast votes for two (2)
11 individuals who reside in said school district pursuant to
12 guidelines which the Department of State, in consultation with
13 the board of elections for the county designated under
14 subsection (b), shall establish for this purpose within ninety
15 (90) days of the effective date of this section.

16 (2) If the election of two (2) school directors representing
17 each school district which is located in whole or in part within
18 the county designated under subsection (b) would result in the
19 election of an even number of school directors, each qualified
20 voter residing in a school district to be governed by the
21 county-wide board of school directors also shall be entitled to
22 cast a vote for an additional at large school director, who
23 shall reside within a school district to be governed by the
24 county-wide board of school directors, pursuant to guidelines
25 which the Department of State, in consultation with the board of
26 elections for the county designated under subsection (b), shall
27 establish for this purpose within ninety (90) days of the
28 effective date of this section.

29 (3) Where any of the school districts to be governed by the
30 county-wide board of school directors is located in part within

1 a county other than the county designated under subsection (b),
2 the boards of elections for all counties in which such school
3 districts are located in whole or in part shall cooperate with
4 the Department of State in the establishment of the guidelines
5 required under this subsection.

6 (e) The members of the county-wide board of school directors
7 established under this section shall have the power and duty to
8 cast votes with respect to the affairs of all school districts
9 that are governed by the county-wide board of school directors,
10 notwithstanding each member's school district of residence.

11 (f) The office of county-wide school director shall be
12 considered a full-time, paid position. Members of the county-
13 wide board of school directors shall receive compensation in the
14 form and amount that shall be determined by the Secretary of
15 Education and shall be paid jointly by the school districts
16 governed by the county-wide board of school directors. Each
17 school district shall pay for the compensation of the two (2)
18 school directors representing said school district as well as an
19 equal share of the compensation of any at large school director
20 elected under subsection (d) (2) and shall provide administrative
21 support, office space and any other assistance necessary to
22 carry out the duties of this section. Office space for any at
23 large school director elected under subsection (d) (2) shall be
24 provided by the school district in which the at large school
25 director resides.

26 (g) Individuals serving as county-wide school directors
27 under this section shall not have the right to elect membership
28 in the Public School Employees' Retirement System established
29 under 24 Pa.C.S. Pt. IV (relating to retirement for school
30 employees) or the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement

1 System established under 71 Pa.C.S. Pt. XXV (relating to
2 retirement for State employees and officers), nor shall service
3 as a county-wide school director under this section be eligible
4 for credit in the Public School Employees' Retirement System or
5 the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System.

6 (h) This section shall expire ten (10) years after the
7 effective date of this section. Elections to the board of school
8 directors of each individual school district governed by the
9 county-wide board of school directors established under this
10 section shall occur during the calendar year immediately prior
11 to expiration of this section pursuant to procedures set forth
12 in this act and in the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320),
13 known as the "Pennsylvania Election Code."

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