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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 622 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY HARHAI, D. COSTA, BROWNLEE, McNEILL, THOMAS,  
KINSEY, KOTIK, COHEN, KORTZ, MAHONEY AND MURT,  
FEBRUARY 26, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

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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 grounds and buildings, providing  
6 for school police and security officer training.

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

9 Section 1. The General Assembly finds and declares as  
10 follows:

11 (1) School security officers and security guards  
12 employed by school districts across this Commonwealth are  
13 entrusted with securing our school buildings, property and  
14 the safety of our students, staff, administration and all  
15 related support staff employed in the educational setting.  
16 These security officers and guards are to ensure that the  
17 youth of this Commonwealth have a safe learning environment.

18 (2) The purpose of this act is to provide for the  
19 education, training and certification of school security

1 personnel as a basis of their employment and to prescribe a  
2 course of instruction to obtain certification.

3 Section 2. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
4 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
5 section to read:

6 Section 778.1. Training Requirements for School Security  
7 Officers.--(a) Education and training requirements for security  
8 officers are as follows:

9 (1) A security officer hired by a school district on or  
10 after the effective date of this section must complete a  
11 mandated training course within one year of being hired.

12 (2) A security officer hired by a school district prior to  
13 the effective date of this section shall have a reasonable  
14 amount of time, as determined by the board of directors of the  
15 school district, to either give cause to the board's  
16 satisfaction as to why the training should be waived or to  
17 complete the mandated training course.

18 (3) An approved training course must include the following  
19 topics:

20 (i) Professionalism.

21 (ii) Authority as a security officer.

22 (iii) Report writing.

23 (iv) Self-defense and dealing with unruly students and  
24 adults.

25 (v) Search and seizure on school property.

26 (vi) Testifying in court.

27 (vii) Working with State and local police agencies.

28 (viii) Lockdown and crisis procedures.

29 (ix) Interviewing witnesses.

30 (x) Preserving evidence.

- 1     (xi) The relevant provisions of this act.
- 2     (xii) Basic computer skills.
- 3     (xiii) Custody issues specific to schools.
- 4     (xiv) Crowd control.
- 5     (xv) Special events security.
- 6     (xvi) Drug identification.
- 7     (xvii) Truancy and related issues.

8     (4) In addition, a security officer must be certified in  
9 basic first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and  
10 automated external defibrillator (AED) usage.

11     (5) An approved training course must include at least sixty  
12 (60) hours of instruction.

13     (6) Instructors for the required course material must be  
14 accredited through one of the following:

15     (i) The department.

16     (ii) The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

17     (iii) The provisions of 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D (relating  
18 to municipal police education and training).

19     (iv) The Pennsylvania State Police.

20     (7) Instructors for any additional course material must be  
21 approved by a board of directors of a school district.

22     (b) The board of directors of a school district shall have  
23 the duty to:

24     (1) Adopt curriculum that is in compliance with this  
25 section.

26     (2) Pay costs of certification and recertification, but not  
27 for qualification for training.

28     (3) Set the date and location of the certification and  
29 recertification courses.

30     (4) Maintain and file with the department a list of all

1 certified security officers in the school district.

2 (c) The department shall have the duty to approve all school  
3 board-adopted policies and the authority to promulgate rules and  
4 regulations consistent with this section and to issue  
5 certification or recertification upon successful completion of  
6 the mandated and approved training course.

7 (d) A person who is certified under 53 Pa.C.S. § 2167  
8 (relating to police training), 2168 (relating to automatic  
9 certification) or 2169 (relating to in-service training by  
10 existing personnel) shall be automatically certified by the  
11 board of directors of a school district.

12 (e) To qualify for admission into a training course, the  
13 individual must meet all the following:

14 (1) Be eighteen (18) years of age or older.

15 (2) Have a physician attest to the individual's physical  
16 ability to perform the duties of a security officer.

17 (3) Have on file with both the board of directors of a  
18 school district and the department the following:

19 (i) A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) clearance.

20 (ii) A completed background check under section 111.

21 (f) The department shall issue a certification to the  
22 individual upon successful completion of the required training  
23 course. Certification may be renewed annually upon successful  
24 completion of twenty (20) hours of continuing education  
25 consisting of updates to the basic curriculum or specialized  
26 areas that a board of directors of a school district deems  
27 necessary.

28 (g) Nothing in this section shall require or prohibit a  
29 centralized training or recertification course.

30 (h) As used in this section:

1       "Department." The Department of Education of the  
2 Commonwealth.

3       "Security officer." A person employed by a school district  
4 for the purpose of maintaining the security of the school. The  
5 term shall include school police officers hired under section  
6 778.

7       Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.