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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1318 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, COSTA, ROTHMAN, STEFANO, VOGEL,  
CULVER, PENNYCUICK, BROWN AND DISANTO, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

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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 preliminary provisions, further  
6 providing for definitions; in terms and courses of study,  
7 further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code  
8 and providing for handwriting instruction required; and, in  
9 charter schools, further providing for provisions applicable  
10 to charter schools and for applicability of other provisions  
11 of this act and of other acts and regulations.

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

14 Section 1. Section 102 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,  
15 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by  
16 adding a definition to read:

17 Section 102. Definitions.--When used in this act the  
18 following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

19 \* \* \*

20 "Cursive handwriting." A style of penmanship in which the  
21 symbols of the language are written in a conjoined or flowing  
22 manner often with the strokes of successive characters joined

1 and the angles rounded.

2 \* \* \*

3 Section 2. Section 1511 of the act is amended to read:

4 Section 1511. Subjects of Instruction; Flag Code.--In every  
5 elementary public and private school, established and maintained  
6 in this Commonwealth, the following subjects shall be taught, in  
7 the English language and from English texts: English, including  
8 spelling, reading and writing, which shall include cursive  
9 handwriting, arithmetic, geography, the history of the United  
10 States and of Pennsylvania, civics, including loyalty to the  
11 State and National Government, safety education, and the humane  
12 treatment of birds and animals, health, including physical  
13 education, and physiology, music and art. Other subjects shall  
14 be taught in the public elementary schools and also in the  
15 public high schools as may be prescribed by the standards of the  
16 State Board of Education. All such subjects, except foreign  
17 languages, shall be taught in the English language and from  
18 English texts: Provided, however, That, at the discretion of the  
19 [Superintendent of Public Instruction] Secretary of Education,  
20 the teaching of subjects in a language other than English may be  
21 permitted as part of a sequence in foreign language study or as  
22 part of a bilingual education program if the teaching personnel  
23 are properly certified in the subject fields. Each school  
24 district shall provide and distribute to each pupil, enrolled in  
25 the eighth grade of the public schools, one illustrated copy of  
26 the National Flag Code, and shall, from time to time, make  
27 available such copies as are necessary for replacements from  
28 year to year. It shall be the duty of each teacher in the public  
29 schools to make such use of the code as may, from time to time,  
30 seem proper.

1 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:  
2 Section 1529. Handwriting Instruction Required.--Each  
3 student shall receive cursive handwriting instruction to ensure  
4 that students have the ability to read and write cursive  
5 handwriting by the end of fifth grade.

6 Section 4. Section 1732-A(a) of the act is amended to read:

7 Section 1732-A. Provisions Applicable to Charter Schools.--

8 (a) Charter schools shall be subject to the following:

9 Sections 108, 110, 111, 321, 325, 326, 327, 431, 436, 443,  
10 510, 518, 527, 708, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 752, 753, 755,  
11 771, 776, 777, 808, 809, 810, 1109, 1111, 1112(a), 1301, 1310,  
12 1317, 1317.1, 1317.2, 1318, 1326, 1327, 1327.2, 1329, 1330,  
13 1332, 1333, 1333.1, 1333.2, 1333.3, 1303-A, 1513, 1517, 1518,  
14 1521, 1523, 1529, 1531, 1547, 2014-A, Article XIII-A and Article  
15 XIV.

16 Act of July 17, 1961 (P.L.776, No.341), known as the  
17 "Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act."

18 Act of July 19, 1965 (P.L.215, No.116), entitled "An act  
19 providing for the use of eye protective devices by persons  
20 engaged in hazardous activities or exposed to known dangers in  
21 schools, colleges and universities."

22 Section 4 of the act of January 25, 1966 (1965 P.L.1546,  
23 No.541), entitled "An act providing scholarships and providing  
24 funds to secure Federal funds for qualified students of the  
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who need financial assistance to  
26 attend postsecondary institutions of higher learning, making an  
27 appropriation, and providing for the administration of this  
28 act."

29 Act of July 12, 1972 (P.L.765, No.181), entitled "An act  
30 relating to drugs and alcohol and their abuse, providing for

1 projects and programs and grants to educational agencies, other  
2 public or private agencies, institutions or organizations."

3 Act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1595, No.175), known as the  
4 "Antihazing Law."

5 \* \* \*

6 Section 5. Section 1749-A(a) of the act, amended July 11,  
7 2024 (P.L.618, No.55), is amended to read:

8 Section 1749-A. Applicability of other provisions of this act  
9 and of other acts and regulations.

10 (a) General requirements.--Cyber charter schools shall be  
11 subject to the following:

12 (1) Sections 108, 110, 111, 321, 325, 326, 327, 431,  
13 436, 443, 510, 518, 527, 708, 752, 753, 755, 771, 776, 777,  
14 808, 809, 810, 1109, 1111, 1112(a), 1205.1, 1205.2, 1301,  
15 1302, 1310, 1317.2, 1318, 1326, 1327, 1327.2, 1329, 1330,  
16 1332, 1333, 1333.1, 1333.2, 1333.3, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344,  
17 1345, 1372(8), 1303-A, 1518, 1521, 1523, 1529, 1531, 1547,  
18 1702-A, 1703-A, 1714-A, 1715-A, 1716-A, 1716.1-A, 1719-A,  
19 1721-A, 1722-A, 1723-A(a) and (b), 1724-A, 1725-A, 1727-A,  
20 1729-A, 1730-A, 1731-A(a) (1) and (b) and 2014-A and Articles  
21 XII-A, XIII-A and XIV.

22 (2) The act of July 17, 1961 (P.L.776, No.341), known as  
23 the Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act.

24 (3) The act of July 19, 1965 (P.L.215, No.116), entitled  
25 "An act providing for the use of eye protective devices by  
26 persons engaged in hazardous activities or exposed to known  
27 dangers in schools, colleges and universities."

28 (4) Section 4 of the act of January 25, 1966 (1965  
29 P.L.1546, No.541), entitled "An act providing scholarships  
30 and providing funds to secure Federal funds for qualified

1 students of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who need  
2 financial assistance to attend postsecondary institutions of  
3 higher learning, making an appropriation, and providing for  
4 the administration of this act."

5 (5) The act of July 12, 1972 (P.L.765, No.181) entitled  
6 "An act relating to drugs and alcohol and their abuse,  
7 providing for projects and programs and grants to educational  
8 agencies, other public or private agencies, institutions or  
9 organizations."

10 (6) 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 28 (relating to antihazing) and 42  
11 Pa.C.S. § 5803(a)(3.1) (relating to asset forfeiture).

12 \* \* \*

13 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.