

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1559 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY FARINA, BOBACK, NEILSON, SCHLOSSBERG, VITALI, PEIFER, ROZZI, HELM, BIZZARRO, BROWNLEE, MULLERY, MCNEILL, MCCARTER, KAVULICH, TRUITT, VEREB, KIM, FLYNN, COHEN, BRIGGS, V. BROWN, HAGGERTY, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, LONGIETTI, SANKEY, DIGIROLAMO, O'NEILL, MAHONEY, MCGEEHAN, YOUNGBLOOD, GIBBONS, HARKINS, THOMAS, O'BRIEN, CONKLIN, CLAY, EMRICK AND MURT, JUNE 20, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 20, 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," providing for youth suicide awareness  
6 and prevention training.

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 1205.7. Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention  
13 Training.--(a) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the  
14 professional development plan submitted by each school entity to  
15 the secretary for approval pursuant to section 1205.1 shall  
16 include four (4) hours of training in youth suicide awareness  
17 and prevention every five (5) years for professional educators

1 in school buildings serving students in grade six (6), seven  
2 (7), eight (8), nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11) or twelve (12).  
3 Training under this subsection may be used to satisfy a  
4 professional educator's continuing professional education  
5 requirement under section 1205.2.

6 (b) Within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective  
7 date of this section, the Department of Education, in  
8 consultation with the Department of Health, shall develop and  
9 make available on its publicly accessible Internet website  
10 recommended guidelines and educational materials for the  
11 training required under subsection (a), which may include  
12 materials which are already publicly available. In providing the  
13 training required under subsection (a), a school entity shall  
14 not be required to use the guidelines and materials developed  
15 and made available by the Department of Education.

16 (c) For purposes of this section, "school entity" shall mean  
17 a school district, joint school district, charter school,  
18 regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit  
19 or area vocational-technical school.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, or  
21 immediately, whichever is later.