



Senate Education Committee

Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola
Chairman

Dave Transue
Executive Director
dtransue@pasen.gov

Matt Azeles
Deputy Executive Director
mazeles@pasen.gov

Karen Seivard
Committee Counsel
kseivard@pasen.gov

Room 173 Capitol Building, Senate Box 203015, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3015 • 717-787-6801 • 717-783-3722

BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 1087, Printer's No. 1267

Prime Sponsor: Piccola/Dinniman

A. SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 1087 would amend the Pennsylvania Public School Code to require that student performance be considered in teacher evaluations. The bill would require the Department of Education (PDE), in consultation with teachers, school administrators, parents, school board members and representatives of higher education, to revise the rating cards required under the School Code to include student performance as a factor to be considered in the teacher's rating. PDE would also be required to provide the chairmen of the House and Senate Education Committees with periodic reports of its progress, with the final progress report to include PDE's proposal for a comprehensive revision to the professional employee rating system. The bill's provisions would expire on June 30, 2012.

B. BILL ANALYSIS:

S.B. 1087 would amend section 1123 of the School Code to require that the professional employee rating system include student performance as a factor to be considered in determining teacher performance. The bill would require PDE to revise professional employee rating cards to incorporate student performance by January 1, 2012. In so doing, PDE would be required to consult with classroom teachers, school administrators, parents of school-age children enrolled in a public school, school board members and representatives of institutions of higher education.

Under the bill, PDE would be required to provide periodic reports to the chairman and minority chairman of the Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives describing the status of the revision of the rating cards. The periodic reports would be due on September 1, 2011, November 1, 2011, and January 1, 2012. In the January 1, 2012 report, PDE would be required to include a proposal for a comprehensive revision of the professional employee rating system.

The bill provides that, upon implementation of the revised rating cards, currently-effective rating cards would be null and void.

The bill would take effect 60 days following enactment, and its provisions would expire on June 30, 2012.

C. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EXISTING LAW:

Current law requires that teacher performance ratings take into consideration the following factors: personality; preparation; technique; and pupil reaction. Student performance is not considered. PDE is required to revise periodically the rating card used in evaluating professional employees with the cooperation of a committee appointed by the Secretary of Education that includes school district superintendents, classroom teachers, school directors, school supervisors, parents of school-age children enrolled in a public school, a representative of a college or department of education within a higher education institution located within the Commonwealth, and such other groups or interests as the Secretary deems appropriate.