

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 104 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, BREWSTER, COSTA, GORDNER, BOSCOLA, WILLIAMS, RAFFERTY AND BROWNE, FEBRUARY 12, 2015

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 12, 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 preliminary provisions, providing  
6 for the Dual Enrollment Expansion Task Force.

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 124. Dual Enrollment Expansion Task Force.--(a) The  
13 Dual Enrollment Expansion Task Force is established.

14 (b) The task force shall review and make recommendations for  
15 expanding dual enrollment and advanced placement opportunities  
16 that allow students to obtain college credits while in high  
17 school to ultimately make college education more affordable, as  
18 provided in this section.

19 (c) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- 1     (1) The chairman and the minority chairman of the Education  
2 Committee of the Senate and the chairman and the minority  
3 chairman of the Education Committee of the House of  
4 Representatives.
- 5     (2) The Secretary of Education or a designee.
- 6     (3) The Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary  
7 Education or a designee.
- 8     (4) The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Postsecondary and  
9 Higher Education or a designee.
- 10    (5) The Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education  
11 or a designee.
- 12    (6) The presidents of each of the Commonwealth's four State-  
13 related universities or their designees.
- 14    (7) The president of the Pennsylvania Commission for  
15 Community Colleges or a designee.
- 16    (8) The president of the Association of Independent Colleges  
17 and Universities of Pennsylvania or a designee.
- 18    (9) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of Private  
19 School Administrators or a designee.
- 20    (10) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of School  
21 Administrators or a designee.
- 22    (11) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of School  
23 Business Officials or a designee.
- 24    (12) The president of the Pennsylvania School Boards  
25 Association or a designee.
- 26    (13) The president of the Philadelphia Federation of  
27 Teachers or a designee.
- 28    (14) The president of the Pennsylvania State Education  
29 Association or a designee.
- 30    (15) The president of the Association of Pennsylvania State

1 College and University Faculties or a designee.

2 (16) Two representatives of this Commonwealth's broadband  
3 cable industry, one each to be selected by the President pro  
4 tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
5 Representatives.

6 (17) The president of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business  
7 and Industry or a designee.

8 (d) The members of the task force shall select a member to  
9 serve as chair of the task force.

10 (e) The task force shall hold its first meeting within  
11 forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this section.

12 (f) The task force shall hold meetings at the call of the  
13 chair.

14 (g) The members may not receive compensation for their  
15 services, but shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel and  
16 other reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the  
17 performance of their duties as members of the task force.

18 (h) The task force may employ technical and clerical staff  
19 as it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities under  
20 this section.

21 (i) The General Assembly shall provide administrative  
22 support, meeting space and any other assistance required by the  
23 task force to carry out its duties under this section in  
24 cooperation with the department. The department shall provide  
25 the task force with data, research and other information upon  
26 request by the task force.

27 (j) The task force shall have all of the following powers  
28 and duties:

29 (1) Review and make findings and recommendations for the  
30 addition or expansion of dual enrollment programs in this

1 Commonwealth.

2 (2) Review and make findings and recommendations for the  
3 expansion of advanced placement options in this Commonwealth.

4 (3) Consult with and utilize experts to assist in carrying  
5 out the duties under this subsection.

6 (4) Receive input from interested parties, including, but  
7 not limited to, school districts, career and technical schools,  
8 institutions of higher education, the College Board, Department  
9 of Labor, media and Internet companies and trade associations.

10 (5) Meet with all segments of the basic and higher education  
11 communities, representatives of the State's business and labor  
12 communities and Internet Service Providers operating within this  
13 Commonwealth to discuss their potential involvement in the  
14 operation of a State virtual dual-enrollment, blended or hybrid  
15 high school program.

16 (6) Meet with current operators of Internet-based  
17 educational programs operating within this Commonwealth,  
18 including those operated by school districts, intermediate units  
19 and blended and hybrid high school programs.

20 (7) Hold public hearings in different regions of this  
21 Commonwealth, consistent with the following:

22 (i) All meetings and public hearings of the task force shall  
23 be deemed public meetings for the purpose of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7  
24 (relating to open meetings).

25 (ii) Seven (7) members of the task force shall constitute a  
26 quorum at any meeting.

27 (iii) Each member of the task force may designate another  
28 person to represent that member at meetings of the task force.

29 (8) Review and consider factors of college credit expansion  
30 to high school students, including, but not limited to, access

1 to the advanced placement program and testing that is utilized  
2 throughout the United States.

3 (9) Identify the following types of classes taught in this  
4 Commonwealth:

5 (i) High school courses taught by college instructors for  
6 neighboring higher education institutions.

7 (ii) Career and certification courses taught in high schools  
8 by community college instructors.

9 (iii) Hybrid learning opportunities listed in subparagraphs  
10 (i) and (ii) where students will earn college credit in a  
11 combination of the classroom, online learning, college campuses  
12 and the workplace.

13 (10) Consider courses to be offered when adding or expanding  
14 options already in place, including how courses will be selected  
15 and assessed.

16 (11) Consider policies for awarding college credit and the  
17 means for program accountability.

18 (12) In identifying the factors needed to expand dual  
19 enrollment and the advanced placement program and testing and in  
20 completing the report required under paragraph (21), consider  
21 the impact these factors may have on the distribution of basic  
22 education funding among the school districts.

23 (13) Consider methods for funding the expansion of dual  
24 enrollment and the advanced placement program, including cost  
25 estimates.

26 (14) Review the administration of State and regional basic  
27 education programs and services to determine if cost savings may  
28 be achieved while expanding the ability of students to obtain  
29 college credit in high school and make recommendations to  
30 implement the savings.

1     (15) Consider the advantages and disadvantages of a uniform  
2 articulation agreement for each school district in relation to  
3 the level of State basic education funding the school district  
4 received in the prior school year.

5     (16) Identify and facilitate opportunities for academically  
6 talented students in economically distressed school districts to  
7 complete their junior and senior years at an area community  
8 college or university.

9     (17) Review faculty issues arising from the expansion of  
10 dual enrollment arrangements and advanced placement courses and  
11 programs, including salaries, employe status in arrangements for  
12 reporting purposes, certification, training, professional  
13 development and evaluation.

14     (18) Assure maximum accessibility to expanded dual  
15 enrollment and advanced placement opportunities for all high  
16 school students in all geographic locations.

17     (19) Develop a proposed plan incorporating the essential  
18 factors for expanding dual enrollment and advanced placement  
19 opportunities identified in this subsection.

20     (20) Draft proposed regulations and legislation based on the  
21 task force's findings.

22     (21) Not later than one (1) year after the effective date of  
23 this section, issue a report of the task force's findings and  
24 recommendations to the Governor, the President pro tempore of  
25 the Senate, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the  
26 Senate, the Education Committee of the Senate, the Speaker of  
27 the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and the  
28 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Education  
29 Committee of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of  
30 Education and the State Board of Education.

1 (22) Consider other issues as it deems appropriate.

2 (k) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
3 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
4 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Dual enrollment." The term shall include, but not be  
8 limited to, an arrangement between a school district and a  
9 postsecondary institution that is made pursuant to:

10 (1) A concurrent written agreement established under Article  
11 XVI-B.

12 (2) An agreement made under section 1525.

13 (3) An articulation agreement authorized by the department.

14 (4) Any other type of arrangement that would address the  
15 need to close academic opportunity gaps for obtaining college  
16 credit, whether through direct college course attendance,  
17 successful advanced placement course work offered to the student  
18 while in high school or other programs that provide a student  
19 with the ability to obtain college credits while in high school  
20 and ultimately make college education more affordable in this  
21 Commonwealth.

22 "Task force." The Dual Enrollment Expansion Task Force  
23 established under this section.

24 (1) This section shall expire June 30, 2016.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

