

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1623 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY EMRICK, BLOOM, BROOKS, CHRISTIANA, DENLINGER, DUNBAR, GINGRICH, HELM, LAWRENCE, LUCAS, O'NEILL AND CLYMER, JULY 24, 2013

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 16, 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," further providing for evaluation of
6 applications for certification.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1216 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is <--
11 amended by adding a subsection ADDED JULY 9, 2005 (P.L.226, <--
12 NO.46), IS AMENDED to read:

13 Section 1216. Evaluation of Applications for
14 Certification.--(a) All applications for certification shall be
15 evaluated in their entirety. The Department of Education shall
16 notify the applicant if the application is incomplete and
17 include a listing of all materials or information needed to
18 complete the application. The applicant's pending application
19 shall remain open for one year following the date of such

1 notification. No letter of denial of certification shall be  
2 issued unless all deficiencies in the application are stated in  
3 the letter of denial.

4 (b) The grade point average used by the department in  
5 evaluating the grade point average requirements for  
6 certification pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 354.24 (relating to  
7 academic performance) shall be as follows:

8 (1) For applicants whose initial preparation culminated in a  
9 bachelor's degree or higher prior to October 7, 2000, the grade  
10 point average in effect on the date of application for  
11 certification.

12 (2) For applicants whose initial preparation culminates in a  
13 bachelor's degree or higher on or after October 7, 2000, the  
14 grade point average in effect on the date of graduation.

15 (C) A TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT <--  
16 OF EDUCATION SHALL RECOMMEND APPLICANTS FOR CERTIFICATION WHO  
17 MEET THE STANDARDS FOR GRADE POINT AVERAGE SET FORTH IN 22 PA.  
18 CODE § 354.33(5) AND (6) (RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY).

19 ~~(e)~~ (D) (1) A teacher preparation program approved by the <--  
20 Department of Education shall not require a student to obtain a  
21 passing score on an assessment administered pursuant to 22 Pa.  
22 Code § 49.18 (relating to assessment) as a condition of  
23 graduation or include the student's score on the assessment as a  
24 component of a student's grade in any course, provided that the  
25 OBSERVATIONAL assessment of professional knowledge and practice <--  
26 may be included as a component of a student's student teaching  
27 grade.

28 (2) For purposes of this paragraph:

29 (i) "Assessment" shall include the assessment of basic  
30 skills, THE assessment of general knowledge, THE assessment of <--

1 professional knowledge and practice or THE assessment of subject <--  
2 matter as such terms are defined in 22 Pa. Code § 49.1 (relating  
3 to definitions).

4 (ii) "Assessment of professional knowledge and practice"  
5 shall have the meaning set forth in 22 Pa. Code § 49.1 (relating  
6 to definitions).

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.