
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 840 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MAHONEY, COHEN, D. COSTA, HELM AND D. PARKER,
MARCH 24, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 24, 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," providing for county consolidation of
6 school districts of all classes, except of the first class.

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 an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE II-A

13 COUNTY CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

14 Section 201-A. Scope of article.

15 This article provides for county consolidation of school
16 districts.

17 Section 202-A. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this article
19 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
20 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Department." The Department of Education of the
2 Commonwealth.

3 "Identifying characteristics." Includes school name, school
4 facility name, school song, school mascot and any other indicia
5 of school identity.

6 "School district." Includes school districts of all classes,
7 except of the first class.

8 Section 203-A. Establishment of county school districts.

9 (a) Establishment.--

10 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 224, all
11 school districts shall be consolidated at the county level
12 and be governed by a single county school board under section
13 204-A.

14 (2) The school board of each county shall appoint a
15 single county superintendent for all schools within the
16 county consolidated under this article and may appoint a
17 solicitor and such other appointees and employees as it may
18 deem proper in carrying out the provisions of this act.

19 (3) Each school consolidated under this article shall
20 maintain its own identifying characteristics in the new
21 county district as long as it is operational.

22 (b) Division.--In instances where the boundaries of a school
23 district encompass multiple counties, the department shall
24 divide the district and schools into the appropriate county
25 under section 205-A.

26 Section 204-A. Countywide school board.

27 (a) Election.--At the first municipal election occurring
28 more than 30 days subsequent to the formation of a countywide
29 school district under this article, a board of school directors
30 for the district shall be elected, as provided in this section.

1 (b) Directors.--

2 (1) When two or more school districts are combined into
3 a single county district under this article, the directors
4 then in office in each component school district shall, until
5 the end of their respective terms, be directors of the newly
6 formed school district. Vacancies occurring in such incumbent
7 positions shall not be filled.

8 (2) At the first municipal election following the date
9 of establishment of the new county school district, three
10 directors shall be elected by region for an initial two-year
11 term, three directors shall be elected by region for an
12 initial four-year term and three directors shall be elected
13 by region for an initial six-year term. Terms of office shall
14 begin on the first Monday of December following the election.
15 For subsequent municipal elections, all school directors of
16 the newly formed school district shall be elected by region
17 for a term of six years.

18 (c) Regional election.--Each school director shall be
19 elected by region, as determined by the department under section
20 205-A.

21 (d) Powers and duties of board.--The new county school board
22 shall be classified based on countywide population as provided
23 under section 202 and shall have all the powers and duties of
24 other similarly classified school boards under this act.

25 Section 205-A. Departmental responsibilities.

26 Within one year of the effective date of this section, the
27 department shall:

28 (1) Distribute schools of school districts that
29 encompass multiple counties into the county in which the
30 individual school is located for the purpose of county

1 consolidation under this article.

2 (2) Divide each county into nine regions of equal
3 population, with consideration of current school district
4 lines. Each region shall elect one member to the county
5 school board under section 204-A. The department shall
6 determine the initial term length of each region established
7 under subsection 204-A(b).

8 (3) Provide advisors and legal counsel to school
9 districts mandated to consolidate under this article.

10 Section 206-A. Collective bargaining agreements.

11 The provisions of this article shall not be construed as
12 abrogating any provision of a collective bargaining agreement or
13 employment contract that exists prior to the effective date of
14 this section.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect as follows:

16 (1) The addition of section 205-A of the act shall take
17 effect immediately.

18 (2) This section shall take effect immediately.

19 (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect in two
20 years.