

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 147 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, STAATS, DEASY, ROWE, ZIMMERMAN, MOUL AND JOZWIAK, MARCH 8, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 8, 2023

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 Keystone Exam Alternative Feasibility Study.

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 121.2. Keystone Exam Alternative Feasibility  
 13 Study.--(a) The secretary shall contract for an independent  
 14 study to determine whether the SAT and ACT may be administered  
 15 in lieu of the current Statewide, standardized Keystone Exams in  
 16 literature, algebra I and biology for high school students  
 17 consistent with Federal requirements under 20 U.S.C. § 6311(b)  
 18 (2)(H) (relating to state plans).

19 (b) The secretary shall submit, within one year after the  
 20 effective date of this subsection, a report containing the

1 results of the study and recommendations to the Governor, the  
2 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Education Committee  
3 of the Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of  
4 the Education Committee of the House of Representatives. The  
5 study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

6 (1) An evaluation of the degree to which the ACT and SAT  
7 align with Pennsylvania core academic standards and are suitable  
8 for use in lieu of the Statewide Keystone Exams in literature,  
9 algebra I and biology.

10 (2) Studies, research and analyses required to determine the  
11 extent to which the ACT and SAT test results provide comparable,  
12 valid and reliable data on student achievement as compared to  
13 the Keystone Exams for all students and for each subgroup of  
14 students.

15 (3) A determination of whether the ACT and SAT provide  
16 testing accommodations that permit students with disabilities  
17 and English learners the opportunity to participate in each  
18 assessment and receive comparable benefits.

19 (4) Analyses to determine whether the ACT and SAT provide  
20 unbiased, rational and consistent differentiation among schools  
21 within the Commonwealth's accountability system.

22 (5) An evaluation to determine whether the ACT and SAT meet  
23 the criteria for technical quality that all Statewide  
24 assessments must meet for Federal assessment peer review.

25 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
26 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
27 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

28 "ACT." A standardized test for the assessment of college  
29 readiness administered by ACT.

30 "Keystone Exam." An assessment developed or caused to be

1 developed by the Department of Education pursuant to 22 Pa. Code  
2 § 4.51(f) (relating to State assessment system).  
3 "SAT." A standardized test for the assessment of college  
4 readiness administered by the College Board.  
5 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.  
6 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.