

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1540 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY PARKER, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, GUENST, RABB, MADDEN, PASHINSKI AND CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, JUNE 28, 2023

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, JULY 9, 2024

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 terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for Commission for Agricultural Education
7 Excellence.

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

10 ~~Section 1. Section 1549.1(g) and (m) introductory paragraph <--~~
11 ~~of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the~~
12 ~~Public School Code of 1949, are amended and the section is~~
13 ~~amended by adding a subsection to read:~~

14 SECTION 1. SECTION 1549.1(F) AND (M) INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH <--
15 OF THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE
16 PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, ARE AMENDED AND THE SECTION IS
17 AMENDED BY ADDING SUBSECTIONS TO READ:

18 Section 1549.1. Commission for Agricultural Education
19 Excellence.--* * *

20 ~~(g) [To the extent practicable, from members initially <--~~

1 ~~appointed, an equal number shall draw lots to serve for a term~~
2 ~~of three years, for a term of two years and for a term of one~~
3 ~~year. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a term of~~
4 ~~three years.] The following shall apply:~~

5 ~~(1) A member under subsection (f) (1) and (2) shall serve as~~
6 ~~an ex officio voting member.~~

7 ~~(2) A member under subsection (f) (3) shall be appointed for~~
8 ~~a term of three years.~~

9 ~~(3) A member under subsection (f) (3) whose term has expired~~
10 ~~shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed.~~

11 ~~(g.1) A vacancy in membership of the commission under~~
12 ~~subsection (f) (3) shall be filled by the following process to~~
13 ~~fill the remainder of the unexpired term:~~

14 ~~(1) The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of~~
15 ~~Agriculture shall jointly appoint a member to fill the vacancy.~~

16 ~~(2) A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be nominated~~
17 ~~FROM A LIST SUBMITTED by the President pro tempore of the Senate <--~~
18 ~~in consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate or FROM A <--~~
19 ~~LIST SUBMITTED by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in~~
20 ~~consultation with the Minority Leader of the House of~~
21 ~~Representatives.~~

22 (F) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS <--
23 UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2024:

24 (1) THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, OR A DESIGNEE.

25 (2) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, OR A DESIGNEE.

26 (3) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS JOINTLY APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY
27 OF EDUCATION AND THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FROM LISTS
28 SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE AND THE
29 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN CONSULTATION WITH
30 THE MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE AND THE

1 MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES:

3 (I) TWO FARMERS.

4 (II) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING AND
5 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING INDUSTRIES.

6 (III) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, NOT MORE
7 THAN ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A FACULTY MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE OF
8 AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY.

9 (IV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER
10 EDUCATION WITH A BACKGROUND IN OR KNOWLEDGE OF AGRICULTURAL
11 EDUCATION.

12 (V) TWO TEACHERS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE, ONE
13 FROM A CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER AND ONE FROM A SCHOOL
14 DISTRICT.

15 (VI) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITH A
16 BACKGROUND IN OR KNOWLEDGE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

17 (VII) AN ADMINISTRATOR OF A SCHOOL ENTITY WHICH CONDUCTS AN
18 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

19 (VIII) A MEMBER OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OCCUPATIONAL ADVISORY
20 COMMITTEE.

21 (IX) TWO MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WITH KNOWLEDGE OF
22 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

23 (F.1) BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024, THE COMMISSION SHALL
24 CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

25 (1) THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, OR A DESIGNEE.

26 (2) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, OR A DESIGNEE.

27 (3) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION:

28 (I) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A TEACHER OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL
29 AGRICULTURE FROM A SCHOOL DISTRICT.

30 (II) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A TEACHER OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL

1 AGRICULTURE FROM A CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER.

2 (4) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE:

3 (I) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE

4 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING INDUSTRY.

5 (II) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE AN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES FACULTY

6 MEMBER OF A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

7 (5) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF

8 THE SENATE:

9 (I) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A FARMER.

10 (II) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE

11 AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING INDUSTRY.

12 (6) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE

13 SENATE:

14 (I) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A MEMBER OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT

15 OCCUPATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

16 (II) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

17 WITH KNOWLEDGE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

18 (7) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF

19 REPRESENTATIVES:

20 (I) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A FARMER.

21 (II) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A FACULTY MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE OF

22 AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY.

23 (8) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE

24 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

25 (I) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

26 WITH KNOWLEDGE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

27 (II) ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A BACKGROUND IN

28 OR KNOWLEDGE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

29 * * *

30 (G.1) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED

1 UNDER SUBSECTION (F.1), AN EQUAL NUMBER SHALL DRAW LOTS TO SERVE
2 FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS AND FOR A
3 TERM OF ONE YEAR. THEREAFTER, ALL MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR
4 A TERM OF THREE YEARS. MEMBERS SHALL CONTINUE TO SERVE UNTIL A
5 SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED. IF MEMBERS ARE NOT INITIALLY APPOINTED
6 BY OCTOBER 1, 2024, THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND SECRETARY OF
7 AGRICULTURE SHALL JOINTLY APPOINT ANY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL TO
8 FILL THE VACANCY.

9 * * *

10 (m) By [May 1, 2018, and by May 1 of] December 31 each year
11 [thereafter], the commission shall submit a report to the
12 Governor and the General Assembly on the status of agricultural
13 education in this Commonwealth. The report shall:

14 * * *

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