
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1884 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY R. MACKENZIE, BANTA, D'ORSIE, GILLEN, KAUFFMAN,
M. MACKENZIE AND SCIALABBA, DECEMBER 8, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, DECEMBER 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 high schools, further providing
6 for courses of study; and abrogating regulations.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1605(a) of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
11 amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to
12 read:

13 Section 1605. Courses of Study.--(a) In all public, private
14 or parochial schools, there shall be integrated in the social
15 studies curriculum courses of study as provided in this act. It
16 shall be the duty of the superintendent having supervision over
17 any high school to prepare, and recommend to the board of school
18 directors maintaining the same, suitable courses of study, which
19 shall be adopted by said board of school directors, with such
20 changes as they may deem wise, subject to the provisions of this

1 act. During grades seven through twelve inclusive, there shall
2 be included at least four semesters or equivalent study in the
3 history and government of that portion of America which has
4 become the United States of America, and of the Commonwealth of
5 Pennsylvania, of such nature, kind or quality, as to have for
6 its purpose the developing, teaching and presentation of the
7 principles and ideals of the American republican representative
8 form of government, as portrayed and experienced by the acts and
9 policies of the framers of the Declaration of Independence and
10 framers of the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of
11 Rights. The study of the history of the United States, including
12 the study of the Constitution of the United States and the study
13 of the history and Constitution of this Commonwealth, shall also
14 be such as will emphasize the good, worthwhile and best features
15 and points of the social, economic and cultural development, the
16 growth of the American family life, high standard of living of
17 the United States citizen, the privileges enjoyed by such
18 citizens, their heritage and its derivations of and in our
19 principles of government. Such instruction shall have for its
20 purpose also the instilling into every boy and girl who comes
21 out of our public, private and parochial schools their solemn
22 duty and obligation to exercise intelligently their voting
23 privilege and to understand the advantages of the American
24 republican form of government as compared with various other
25 forms of government. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, and
26 continuing each school year thereafter, the instruction under
27 this subsection shall include instruction on the following
28 topics, including Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution, Joseph
29 Stalin and the Soviet system, Fidel Castro and the Cuban
30 Revolution, Vladimir Lenin and the Russian Revolution, Pol Pot

1 and the Khmer Rouge and Nicolas Maduro and the Chavismo movement
2 and how victims suffered under each of the aforementioned
3 regimes through poverty, starvation, migration, systemic lethal
4 violence and suppression of speech.

5 (a.1) No later than April 1, 2024, the State Board of
6 Education shall promulgate regulations consistent with
7 subsection (a).

8 * * *

9 Section 2. All regulations and parts of regulations are
10 abrogated to the extent of any inconsistency with the provisions
11 of this act.

12 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.