

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1934 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY WATRO, BANTA, JAMES, M. MACKENZIE, R. MACKENZIE,
PROBST, RADER, RIGBY, ROWE, SALISBURY, SCHEUREN, STAATS,
STEHR, STENDER, TOPPER, HAMM, O'NEAL, FRITZ, PICKETT, CABELL,
RYNCAVAGE, SCIALABBA, DALEY, KAUFER, BONNER, FREEMAN AND
ZIMMERMAN, DECEMBER 28, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, DECEMBER 28, 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 terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1511 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
11 amended to read:

12 Section 1511. Subjects of Instruction; Flag Code.--In every
13 elementary public and private school, established and maintained
14 in this Commonwealth, the following subjects shall be taught, in
15 the English language and from English texts: English, including
16 spelling, reading [and], writing, print, joined italics and
17 cursive handwriting, arithmetic, geography, the history of the
18 United States and of Pennsylvania, civics, including loyalty to

1 the State and National Government, safety education, and the
2 humane treatment of birds and animals, health, including
3 physical education, and physiology, music and art. Other
4 subjects shall be taught in the public elementary schools and
5 also in the public high schools as may be prescribed by the
6 standards of the State Board of Education. All such subjects,
7 except foreign languages, shall be taught in the English
8 language and from English texts: Provided, however, That, at the
9 discretion of the [Superintendent of Public Instruction]
10 Secretary of Education, the teaching of subjects in a language
11 other than English may be permitted as part of a sequence in
12 foreign language study or as part of a bilingual education
13 program if the teaching personnel are properly certified in the
14 subject fields. Each school district shall provide and
15 distribute to each pupil, enrolled in the eighth grade of the
16 public schools, one illustrated copy of the National Flag Code,
17 and shall, from time to time, make available such copies as are
18 necessary for replacements from year to year. It shall be the
19 duty of each teacher in the public schools to make such use of
20 the code as may, from time to time, seem proper.

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