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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2514 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY DAVIDSON, NEILSON, SCHWEYER, HILL-EVANS,  
PASHINSKI, McCLINTON, BRADFORD, STURLA AND A. DAVIS,  
JUNE 18, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 18, 2018

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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 charter schools, providing for  
6 cyber charter accountability commission.

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 1745.1-A. Cyber Charter Accountability Commission.

13 (a) Establishment.--The Cyber Charter Accountability  
14 Commission is established to study and offer recommendations to  
15 the General Assembly concerning cyber charter schools. The  
16 commission shall consist of the following seven members:

17 (1) One member appointed by the Governor.

18 (2) One member appointed by the President pro tempore of  
19 the Senate.

1       (3) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
2 Senate.

3       (4) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives.

5       (5) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
6 House of Representatives.

7       (6) Two members appointed by the Secretary of Education  
8 as follows:

9           (i) One member shall be a representative of the  
10 traditional public school community.

11           (ii) One member shall be a representative of the  
12 charter school system.

13       (b) Duration of study.--The commission shall issue a report  
14 within 180 days of the commission's first meeting.

15       (c) Report.--The commission shall study charter cyber  
16 schools and issue a report on the following:

17           (1) The expulsion of students due to truancy when the  
18 student is failing academically.

19           (2) The gap between students performing at grade level  
20 within cyber charter schools compared to traditional public  
21 schools.

22           (3) The disparity between grades and standardized test  
23 scores among cyber charter school students.

24           (4) The disparity between the cost of cyber charter  
25 schools and brick and mortar schools.

26           (5) Special education staffing and programs in cyber  
27 charter schools.

28           (6) Teacher to student ratios within cyber charter  
29 schools.

30       (d) Period and effect of moratorium.--Notwithstanding any

1 provision of law to the contrary, beginning on the effective  
2 date of this section and until the completion of the report  
3 under subsection (c), a moratorium is placed on the formation  
4 and approval of new cyber charter schools and the expansion or  
5 increase in enrollment of existing cyber charter schools in  
6 order to provide the General Assembly with sufficient time to  
7 review the completed report and to take appropriate action.

8 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
9 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
10 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Commission." The Cyber Charter Accountability Commission.

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