
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2880 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY RABB, MADDEN, HOHENSTEIN AND SANCHEZ,
OCTOBER 17, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 17, 2022

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," providing for mascot transition
6 grants; and establishing the Mascot Grant Fund.

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 an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XXVI-L

13 MASCOT TRANSITION GRANTS

14 Section 2601-L. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this article
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "American Indian mascot." A name, symbol or image that
19 depicts or refers to an American Indian or Native American
20 tribe, individual, custom or tradition that is used as a public

1 institution of higher education's or a school entity's mascot,
2 nickname, logo, letterhead or team name.

3 "Department." The Department of Education of the
4 Commonwealth.

5 "Eligible institution." A school entity or public
6 institution of higher education which is approved by the
7 department for a mascot grant under this article.

8 "Mascot grant." A monetary grant provided by the department
9 under this article.

10 "Public institution of higher education." A university
11 within the State System of Higher Education, a community college
12 or State-related university.

13 "School entity." A school district, charter school, cyber
14 charter school, private school, intermediate unit or area career
15 and technical school.

16 Section 2602-L. Mascot Grand Fund.

17 (a) Establishment.--The Mascot Grant Fund is established
18 within the State Treasury to provide mascot grants to an
19 eligible institution.

20 (b) Money.--The department shall make available \$1,000,000
21 of the department's appropriation from the General Assembly in a
22 fiscal year to be deposited into the Mascot Grant Fund for the
23 implementation of this article.

24 Section 2603-L. Grant eligibility and amount of award.

25 Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the department
26 shall allot a one-time mascot grant of up to \$20,000 to an
27 eligible institution which has an American Indian mascot as of
28 the effective date of this section and voluntarily discontinues
29 the use of the American Indian mascot on or after the effective
30 date of this section.

1 Section 2604-L. Use of grant money.

2 (a) General rule.--A mascot grant shall be used for, or in
3 connection with, expenses incurred by an eligible institution to
4 offset the costs associated with the discontinued use of an
5 American Indian mascot, including:

6 (1) The purchase, design or renovation of new equipment
7 such as logos, signs and other branding, including banners
8 and letterhead, to remove the American Indian mascot.

9 (2) The purchase or renovation of sports equipment,
10 facilities, sport uniforms or other sports paraphernalia and
11 branding at local sports facilities to remove the American
12 Indian mascot.

13 (3) The removal of American Indian mascots on an
14 eligible institution's property, including artistic
15 representations on flooring, windows, engravings or other
16 adaptations on buildings.

17 (b) Regulations.--The department may promulgate regulations
18 governing the use of mascot grants.

19 Section 2605-L. Forfeiture.

20 An eligible institution which knowingly submits
21 misrepresentations or false statements with the intention of
22 fraudulently obtaining a mascot grant from the department shall
23 be denied status as an eligible institution under this article.

24 Section 2606-L. Application.

25 To receive a mascot grant, an eligible institution must
26 submit an application to the department that includes an
27 estimated cost of discontinuing the use of an American Indian
28 mascot. The department shall establish procedures and criteria
29 for awarding mascot grants that shall include:

30 (1) Other application requirements and the deadline for

1 submission of a mascot grant application.

2 (2) Criteria for prioritizing mascot grant applications
3 which focuses on the necessity of each project described in
4 the application and which has as the first priority an
5 application that describes capital construction projects
6 deemed necessary by the department for the eligible
7 institution to discontinue use of the American Indian mascot.

8 (3) Provisions for multiple school entities to apply
9 jointly for funds to replace similar mascots or jointly
10 procure replacement property of branded items.

11 Section 2607-L. Research and assistance.

12 The department may consult the Pennsylvania Human Relations
13 Commission, Office of Advocacy and Reform or other Commonwealth
14 agency for legal, administrative or cultural guidance to school
15 entities applying for mascot grants.

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