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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 339 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, HILL-EVANS, KORTZ, OTTEN, READSHAW AND  
ULLMAN, FEBRUARY 1, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 1, 2019

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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, further providing  
6 for definitions and providing for Pennsylvania Charter School  
7 Oversight Board.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1703-A of the act of March 10, 1949  
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
12 amended by adding a definition to read:

13 Section 1703-A. Definitions.--As used in this article,

14 \* \* \*

15 "Oversight board" shall mean the Pennsylvania Charter School  
16 Oversight Board established under section 1733-A.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

19 Section 1733-A. Pennsylvania Charter School Oversight  
20 Board.--(a) The Pennsylvania Charter School Oversight Board is

1 established. The oversight board shall consist of the following  
2 members:

3 (1) The secretary or a designee.

4 (2) The chairperson of the State board or a designee.

5 (3) The following members appointed by the Governor and  
6 confirmed by the Senate:

7 (i) Two (2) members who shall represent private institutions  
8 of higher education located within a city of the first class  
9 from a list of five (5) qualified persons recommended by private  
10 universities.

11 (ii) One (1) member who shall represent State-related  
12 institutions of higher education located within a city of the  
13 first class from a list of three (3) qualified persons  
14 recommended by State-related universities.

15 (iii) One (1) member who shall represent charter schools  
16 located within a city of the first class from a list of three  
17 (3) qualified persons recommended by the Pennsylvania Coalition  
18 of Public Charter Schools and the Keystone Alliance for Public  
19 Charter Schools.

20 (iv) One (1) member who shall represent school districts  
21 located within a city of the first class from a list of three  
22 (3) qualified persons recommended by the Pennsylvania School  
23 Boards Association and the Pennsylvania State Education  
24 Association.

25 (v) Two (2) members who shall represent secondary schools of  
26 any type within a city of the first class from a list of five  
27 (5) qualified persons recommended by the Philadelphia School  
28 Partnership and the Philadelphia School Advocacy Partners.

29 (b) The oversight board shall elect one of its members to  
30 serve as the chair.

1 (c) The oversight board shall hold meetings at the call of  
2 the chair. A majority of the members of the oversight board  
3 shall constitute a quorum. Each member may designate another  
4 person to represent that member at meetings of the oversight  
5 board. Meetings shall be conducted under 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7  
6 (relating to open meetings). Documents of the oversight board  
7 shall be subject to the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3),  
8 known as the "Right-to-Know Law."

9 (d) Members of the oversight board shall receive no  
10 compensation for their services.

11 (e) The oversight board shall have the following powers and  
12 duties:

13 (1) Review applications submitted to a local board of school  
14 directors for new charter schools located in a city of the first  
15 class.

16 (2) Review denial of applications submitted to a local board  
17 of school directors for new charter schools located in a city of  
18 the first class.

19 (3) Review revocation or renewal by a local board of school  
20 directors of charters located in a city of the first class.

21 (4) Review applications submitted by the State Charter  
22 Appeal Board for new charter schools located in a city of the  
23 first class.

24 (5) Review denials made by the State Charter School Appeal  
25 Board for new charter schools located in a city of the first  
26 class.

27 (6) Authorize charter schools located in a city of the first  
28 class and support charter school quality and accountability  
29 through performance monitoring and technical assistance.

30 (f) In order to carry out its powers and duties, the

1 oversight board shall:

2 (1) develop principles and standards or adopt the principles  
3 and standards of the National Association of Charter School  
4 Authorizers; and

5 (2) develop a method to ensure that charter schools are  
6 sufficiently distributed throughout a school district while also  
7 ensuring that a charter application is not denied solely on the  
8 basis of geographic location.

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