
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 499 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY EMRICK, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

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 certification of teachers, further
6 providing for evaluation of applications for certification.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1216 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added
11 July 13, 2005 (P.L.226, No.46), is amended to read:

12 Section 1216. Evaluation of Applications for
13 Certification.--(a) All applications for certification shall be
14 evaluated in their entirety. The Department of Education shall
15 notify the applicant if the application is incomplete and
16 include a listing of all materials or information needed to
17 complete the application. The applicant's pending application
18 shall remain open for one year following the date of such
19 notification. No letter of denial of certification shall be
20 issued unless all deficiencies in the application are stated in

1 the letter of denial.

2 (b) The grade point average used by the department in
3 evaluating the grade point average requirements for
4 certification pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 354.24 (relating to
5 academic performance) shall be as follows:

6 (1) For applicants whose initial preparation culminated in a
7 bachelor's degree or higher prior to October 7, 2000, the grade
8 point average in effect on the date of application for
9 certification.

10 (2) For applicants whose initial preparation culminates in a
11 bachelor's degree or higher on or after October 7, 2000, the
12 grade point average in effect on the date of graduation.

13 (c) A teacher preparation program approved by the Department
14 of Education shall recommend applicants for certification who
15 meet the standards for grade point average set forth in 22 Pa.
16 Code § 354.33(5) and (6) (relating to professional competency).

17 (d) (1) A teacher preparation program approved by the
18 Department of Education shall not require a student to obtain a
19 passing score on an assessment administered pursuant to 22 Pa.
20 Code § 49.18 (relating to assessment) as a condition of
21 graduation or include the student's score on the assessment as a
22 component of a student's grade in any course, provided that the
23 observational assessment of professional knowledge and practice
24 may be included as a component of a student's student teaching
25 grade.

26 (2) For purposes of this paragraph:

27 (i) "Assessment" shall include the assessment of basic
28 skills, the assessment of general knowledge, the assessment of
29 professional knowledge and practice or the assessment of subject
30 matter as such terms are defined in 22 Pa. Code § 49.1 (relating

1 to definitions).

2 (ii) "Assessment of professional knowledge and practice" as
3 defined in 22 Pa. Code § 49.1 (relating to definitions).

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