

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 728 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY ROZZI, HILL-EVANS, CIRESI, MADDEN, SANCHEZ,
KINKEAD AND CONKLIN, MARCH 28, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 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 the State System of Higher
6 Education, providing for performance audit by Auditor
7 General.

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

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

13 Section 2015.1-A. Performance Audit by Auditor General.--(a)
14 The Auditor General shall conduct a thorough performance audit
15 of the institutions that were approved for consolidation by the
16 board in accordance with section 2002-A(a.1).

17 (b) The performance audit shall provide:

18 (1) an independent assessment of the financial health of the
19 institutions after integration; and

20 (2) recommendations for the chancellor, institution

1 presidents and the General Assembly to improve the financial
2 stability of the integrated institutions and make the
3 integration process successful.

4 (c) The performance audit shall address the following:

5 (1) financial projections used by the integrating
6 institutions, the assumptions used to create the projections and
7 the sensitivity and risks to such projections and assumptions;

8 (2) actions taken during the consolidation of the
9 institutions and opportunities for additional cost savings and
10 efficiency recommended by the Auditor General;

11 (3) debt and other long-term obligations held by the
12 institutions and any obligations held by institution affiliates
13 for which the institutions have financial responsibility;

14 (4) the use of State appropriations by the institutions;

15 (5) the proportion of operating costs funded through State
16 appropriations compared to peer institutions in other states;

17 (6) recommendations for improvement in processes or changes
18 in law or policy that would improve the financial health of the
19 integrating institutions and further the goal of the performance
20 audit; and

21 (7) other areas as directed by the Auditor General.

22 (d) The institutions and individuals administering any
23 function being audited under this section shall make all
24 records, documents and other information available for the
25 inspection of the Auditor General that reasonably relate to the
26 conduct of the performance audit prescribed in this section.

27 (e) The Auditor General shall conduct a separate performance
28 audit for all institutions in the system of the common
29 performance and success indicators set by the board or
30 chancellor used to elevate the institutions. The audit shall

1 determine whether the data and information collected for the
2 indicators is accurately reported and how well outcomes align
3 with projections.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2023.