
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 64 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, FREEMAN, SANCHEZ, ZABEL, T. DAVIS,
ROZZI, NEILSON AND MADDEN, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board to
2 mandate one ethics continuing legal education credit and the
3 Continuing Judicial Education Board of Judges to mandate one
4 continuing judicial education credit on diversity, equity and
5 inclusion for every active lawyer, judge and justice in this
6 Commonwealth.

7 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (PACLE)
8 Board is a permanent program adopted by the Supreme Court of
9 Pennsylvania establishing minimum requirements for continuing
10 legal education for Pennsylvania lawyers; and

11 WHEREAS, The program was established by an order of the
12 Supreme Court dated January 7, 1992, and is administered by the
13 PACLE Board; and

14 WHEREAS, The public properly expects that lawyers, in the
15 practice of law, will maintain certain standards of professional
16 competence and ethical behavior; and

17 WHEREAS, The requirement for continuing legal education was
18 established to ensure that, throughout their careers, lawyers
19 admitted to practice in this Commonwealth remain current
20 regarding the law and maintain the requisite knowledge and skill

1 necessary to fulfill their professional responsibilities; and

2 WHEREAS, Lawyers who became admitted to practice law in
3 Pennsylvania on or after July 1, 1992, must complete a program
4 of continuing legal education as provided by the rules and
5 regulations of the PACLE Board; and

6 WHEREAS, An active lawyer is a member in good standing of the
7 bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania who is not an active or
8 senior member of the judiciary; and

9 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court also adopted continuing judicial
10 education requirements for judges and justices serving the
11 Supreme, Commonwealth and Superior courts, as well as the Courts
12 of Common Pleas, the Philadelphia Municipal Court and certified
13 senior judges of each; and

14 WHEREAS, Formalized education programs help judges and
15 justices stay abreast of changes in law, procedure, behavioral
16 science, technological advancement and legal circumstances
17 unique to Pennsylvania; and

18 WHEREAS, A Supreme Court order outlining judicial education
19 requirements established the Pennsylvania Continuing Judicial
20 Education Board of Judges (PACJEB) comprised of judges from
21 courts impacted by the new policy, among others, and reflecting
22 the diversity of Pennsylvania's judiciary, including court size
23 and divisional assignment; and

24 WHEREAS, The PACLE Board has acknowledged the critical
25 importance of diversity in the legal profession and justice
26 system; and

27 WHEREAS, The educational process is fundamentally important
28 to advancing diversity and eliminating bias; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the
30 Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board to mandate one

1 ethics continuing legal education credit and the Pennsylvania
2 Continuing Judicial Education Board of Judges to mandate one
3 continuing judicial education credit on diversity, equity and
4 inclusion for every active lawyer, judge and justice in this
5 Commonwealth.