

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2165 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, DEAN, SCHLOSSBERG, HARKINS, A. DAVIS, HAGGERTY, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, BIZZARRO, LONGIETTI, DAVIS, STEPHENS, CALTAGIRONE, DERMODY, ENGLISH, KIRKLAND, YOUNGBLOOD, KAVULICH, KULIK, SCHWEYER, M. QUINN, MURT, BOBACK, DeLUCA, WARREN, ROEBUCK AND BRADFORD, MARCH 26, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 26, 2018

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 safe schools, establishing the  
6 Statewide School Security Advisory Committee and providing  
7 for its power and duties.

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 1303.2-A. Statewide School Security Advisory  
14 Committee.--(a) A Statewide School Security Advisory Committee  
15 is established to provide a comprehensive review of school  
16 safety in this Commonwealth and make recommendations with  
17 particular attention to school safety, gun violence prevention  
18 and mental health.

19 (b) The committee shall be comprised of the following

1 members:

2 (1) The following individuals to be appointed by the

3 Governor:

4 (i) Three parents of students attending a kindergarten,  
5 elementary or secondary school in this Commonwealth.

6 (ii) Two representatives from institutions of higher  
7 education who specialize in school security, violence prevention  
8 or mental health.

9 (iii) A district attorney of a county in this Commonwealth.

10 (iv) A representative from a local law enforcement agency  
11 within this Commonwealth.

12 (v) An architect licensed in this Commonwealth with  
13 expertise in safe school design.

14 (vi) A representative from a school bus association.

15 (vii) Four Pennsylvania high school students to serve as ex  
16 officio members.

17 (2) The following individuals to be appointed by the

18 Secretary of Education:

19 (i) Two individuals who work in or with Pennsylvania schools  
20 with expertise in school security, violence prevention or mental  
21 health.

22 (ii) Two members from the Pennsylvania Association of School  
23 Administrators or the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

24 (iii) Four representatives who are teachers, staff members  
25 or nurses in a kindergarten, elementary or secondary school in  
26 this Commonwealth.

27 (3) Two individuals who have expertise in mental health  
28 treatment in this Commonwealth for children and young adults, to  
29 be appointed by the Secretary of Human Services.

30 (4) One family member of a victim of school-based violence,

1 to be appointed by the Victim Advocate in the Office of Victim  
2 Advocate within the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.

3 (5) The Attorney General or a designee.

4 (6) The executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission on  
5 Crime and Delinquency or a designee.

6 (7) The Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner or a  
7 designee.

8 (c) Appointments to the committee shall be made within  
9 thirty (30) days of the effective date of this section.

10 (d) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the  
11 committee and shall direct the appropriate agency to provide  
12 logistical support for the committee.

13 (e) The committee shall hold meetings at the call of the  
14 chairperson. The committee may meet and deliberate through the  
15 use of technology or in person.

16 (f) The work of the committee shall focus primarily on the  
17 following distinct areas:

18 (1) Safe school design and operation.

19 (2) Gun violence prevention.

20 (3) Mental health and wellness.

21 (g) The committee shall:

22 (1) Review laws, policies and practices in order to make  
23 recommendations intended to reduce the probability of mass-  
24 casualty violence at and around schools in this Commonwealth.

25 (2) Analyze past efforts of the office, school districts and  
26 individual public or private schools in this Commonwealth to  
27 address school safety.

28 (3) Recommend measures to be taken by the office and public  
29 or private schools to improve school safety.

30 (h) The committee shall receive testimony and provide

1 recommendations, as appropriate, to all of the following:

2 (1) The office.

3 (2) The Pennsylvania State Police.

4 (3) Public schools, including charter schools, and private  
5 schools.

6 (i) The committee shall issue an interim written report and  
7 a final report to the Governor and the General Assembly. The  
8 interim report shall be filed within two hundred seventy (270)  
9 days of the effective date of this section, and the final report  
10 shall be filed within two (2) years of the effective date of  
11 this section.

12 (j) As used in this section, the term "committee" shall mean  
13 the Statewide School Security Advisory Committee.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 30 days.