

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 290 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, JANUARY 31, 2023

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 31, 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 terms and courses of study,  
 6 providing for moment of silence on September 11 anniversary.

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

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

12 Section 1555. Moment of Silence on September 11  
 13 Anniversary.--(a) Each school entity shall conduct a moment of  
 14 silence during instructional hours for students and faculty to  
 15 observe the anniversary of September 11, 2001, as a remembrance  
 16 of the thousands of military servicepersons, government  
 17 employees, civilians and emergency responders who lost their  
 18 lives or were wounded by terrorist attacks on that date.

19 (b) The Department of Education shall establish a model  
 20 curriculum for instruction in the events and significance of

1 September 11, 2001, no later than twelve (12) months after the  
2 effective date of this section. The model curriculum shall  
3 include, but not be limited to, all of the following topics  
4 where appropriate:

5 (1) The historical context of terrorism.

6 (2) The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the  
7 Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93 which crashed in  
8 Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

9 (3) American recovery and response to the attacks.

10 (4) Global challenges and consequences in a post-September  
11 11 world.

12 (c) The Department of Education shall make available on the  
13 department's publicly accessible Internet website curriculum  
14 materials and other available resources regarding the events and  
15 significance of September 11, 2001, for voluntary use by school  
16 entities.

17 (d) Nothing in subsections (b) and (c) shall be construed to  
18 require a school entity or nonpublic school to implement, adopt  
19 or use the curriculum, materials and other resources made  
20 available by the department under this section.

21 (e) For purposes of this section, the term "school entity"  
22 shall mean a school district, charter school, regional charter  
23 school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area career  
24 and technical school.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.