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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE BILL**

No.

**716**

Session of  
1961

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MESSRS. HAYS AND SEYLER, IN PLACE, MAY 31, 1961.

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MR. HAYS, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AS AMENDED,  
JUNE 21, 1961.

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**AN ACT**

Amending the act of March 10 1949 (P L 30) entitled "An act relating to the public school system including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools amending revising consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto" clarifying and changing provisions relating to social studies curriculum

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows

- 1 Section 1 Section 1515 act of March 10 1949 (P L 30) known
- 2 as the "Public School Code of 1949" is repealed absolutely

EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter stricken through is to be omitted from bill. Underscoring indicates new matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

1 Section 2 Subsection (a) of section 1605 of the act amended April  
2 12 1956 (P L 1459) is amended to read

3 Section 1605 Courses of Study (a) In all public private or parochial  
4 schools there shall be integrated in the social studies curriculum courses  
5 of study as provided in this act It shall be the duty of the superintend-  
6 ent having supervision over any high school to prepare and recommend  
7 to the board of school directors maintaining the same suitable courses  
8 of study which shall be adopted by said board of school directors with  
9 such changes as they may deem wise subject to the provisions of this  
10 act During [the last four years of a complete high school program]  
11 grades seven through twelve inclusive there shall be included at least  
12 a ~~four~~ two semester [A] FOUR [SEMESTER] SEMESTERS or  
13 equivalent [course of] study in the history and government of that  
14 portion of America which has become the United States of America  
15 ~~and of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania~~ of such nature kind or  
16 quality as to have for its purpose the developing teaching and presenta-  
17 tion of the principles and ideals of the American Republican Repre-  
18 sentative form of government as portrayed and experienced by the acts  
19 and policies of the framers of the Declaration of Independence and  
20 framers of the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights

1 The [courses of] study [in] OF the history of the United States in-  
2 cluding the study of the Constitution of the United States ~~and the~~  
3 STUDY OF THE HISTORY AND Constitution of this Commonwealth  
4 shall also be such as will emphasize the good worthwhile and best fea-  
5 tures and points of the social economic and cultural development the  
6 growth of the American family life high standard of living of the United  
7 States citizen the privileges enjoyed by such citizens their heritage and  
8 its derivations of and in our principles of government [and having for its  
9 purpose also the instilling into every boy and girl coming out of our pub-  
10 lic schools their solemn duty and obligation to exercise their voting priv-  
11 ilege] Such instruction shall have for its purpose also the instilling into  
12 every boy and girl who comes out of our public private and parochial  
13 schools their solemn duty and obligation to exercise intelligently their  
14 voting privilege

15 There shall be also given during grades seven through twelve  
16 inclusive a one semester or equivalent course in the History and Gov-  
17 ernment of Pennsylvania including the Constitution of the State of  
18 Pennsylvania and studies of each important elective and appointive  
19 office of the borough city county and township form of local government  
20 and of the State government Such instruction shall have for its purpose

1 also the instilling into every boy and girl who comes out of our public  
 2 private and parochial schools their solemn duty and obligation to exer-  
 3 aise intelligently their voting privilege Such instruction shall continuo  
 4 in courses in the State Colleges to an extent to be determined by the  
 5 Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 6 \* \* \*

We certify that this bill has passed the Senate and the House of Representatives.

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Chief Clerk, Senate

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President pro tempore, Senate

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Speaker, House of Representatives

Approved The ..... day of ..... A. D. 1961.

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Governor