

## No. 1979-96

## AN ACT

## SB 736

Amending the act of July 8, 1957 (P.L.579, No.321), entitled, as amended, "An act establishing minimum compensation and increments for members of the faculty and administration of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology, providing leave of absence with pay for faculty members and the superintendent of the school and imposing duties on the Board of Trustees of such school and the Secretary of Education," adding to the schools covered by the act.

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

Section 1. The title, act of July 8, 1957 (P.L.579, No.321), entitled, as amended, "An act establishing minimum compensation and increments for members of the faculty and administration of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology, providing leave of absence with pay for faculty members and the superintendent of the school and imposing duties on the Board of Trustees of such school and the Secretary of Education," amended November 30, 1976 (P.L.1217, No.267), is amended to read:

## AN ACT

Establishing minimum compensation and increments for members of the faculty and administration of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology, *the Scotland School for Veterans' Children, and the Scranton State School for the Deaf*, providing leave of absence with pay for faculty members and the superintendent of **[the school] schools** and imposing duties on the Board of Trustees of such **[school] schools** and the Secretary of Education.

Section 2. Section 5.1 of the act, amended November 30, 1976 (P.L.1217, No.267), is amended to read:

Section 5.1. Leaves of Absence.—Upon recommendation of the president and approval by the Board of Trustees and the Secretary of Education, a leave of absence for a period not to exceed twenty calendar weeks with full pay or a leave of absence for a period not to exceed forty calendar weeks with half pay, for restoration of health, study, travel or other appropriate purposes, may be granted to any member of the faculty of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology, *the Scotland School for Veterans' Children, and the Scranton State School for the Deaf*, who has completed ten or more years of satisfactory service as a member of the faculty **[of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology] thereof**. After completion of the requisite ten years, one leave of absence shall be allowed for each additional seven years of service upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees and approval by the Secretary of Education. Leaves shall be accumulated so that no one shall lose entitlement because of failure to use leave, but no one shall be entitled to use more than forty weeks of the

accumulated leave in succession. The president of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology, *the Scotland School for Veterans' Children, and the Scranton State School for the Deaf* may be granted a leave of absence on the same basis as faculty members, as defined in this act. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions, the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology, *the Scotland School for Veterans' Children, and the Scranton State School for the Deaf* shall grant leaves of absence to at least two persons in each semester, if there be two qualified persons requesting leave.

No leave of absence shall be granted unless such person shall agree in writing to return to his or her employment with the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology, *the Scotland School for Veterans' Children, and the Scranton State School for the Deaf* for a period of not less than one year immediately following the expiration of such leave of absence.

No such leave of absence shall be considered a termination or breach of the contract of employment and the person on leave of absence shall be returned to the same position he or she occupied prior thereto.

Every employe while on such leave of absence shall be considered to be in regular full-time daily attendance in the position from which the leave was taken during the period of said leave, for the purpose of determining the employe's length of service and the right to receive increments as provided by law.

Every person on leave of absence shall retain the right to make contributions as a member of either the State [Employes'] *Employees'* Retirement Fund or the Public School [Employes'] *Employees'* Retirement Fund and continue his or her membership therein in whichever system he currently holds membership.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any person on leave of absence from receiving a grant for further study from any institution of learning.

The Trustees of the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology, *the Scotland School for Veterans' Children, and the Scranton State School for the Deaf* shall have the right to make such regulations as they may deem necessary to make sure that employes on leave shall utilize such leave properly for the purpose for which it was granted, requiring reports from the employe or employes on leave in such manner as they may deem necessary.

Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 20th day of November, A. D. 1979.

DICK THORNBURGH