

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HB0354 PN2000	Prepared By:	Alycia Laureti, MPA (717) 787-7044
Committee:	Education	Executive Director:	Kathryn Krueger
Sponsor:	Solomon, Jared		
Date:	6/24/2025		

A. Brief Concept

Creates a freestanding act requiring the Department of Education to develop guidelines regarding "What is your Pennsylvania Story".

C. Analysis of the Bill

Creates a freestanding act requiring the Department of Education to develop guidelines regarding "What is your Pennsylvania Story":

Student objectives:

- Encourages students to:
 - interact with one another as students with unique backgrounds united by one nation and share their "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story".
 - develop a historical understanding of the unique heritage of religious freedoms in this Commonwealth including the voyage of William Penn to Pennsylvania, the development of the Constitution of the United States and its history since 1776.

Materials:

- Requires PDE develop and make available to school entities materials which a school entity may incorporate into social studies instruction.
- Prohibits a school entity from using the materials in a manner that impacts any curriculum requirements.
 - The materials may include:
 - resources that educate students by introducing the students to various cultures through the stories that students relay about who the students are and how their families weave into the Pennsylvania and United States experience.
 - teaching aids that allow students to explore cultures through food, art, books, movies, dance, traditions and experiences.
 - educational aids that provide students with information on the historical experiences of the inhabitants of this Commonwealth, including their experiences arriving in this Commonwealth and development over the years.

Expiration:

- The act sunsets June 30, 2027.

Definitions:

School entity: school district, intermediate unit, area career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter school, or regional charter school.

Social studies: study of the record of human experience including important events; interactions of culture, race and ideas; the nature of prejudice; change and continuity in political systems; effects of technology; importance of global-international perspectives; and the integration of geography, economics and civics studies on major developments in the history of the Commonwealth, the United States and the world.

What Is Your Pennsylvania Story: celebration of the unique lived experiences of a student and the student's family living in this Commonwealth.

Effective Date:

30 days

G. Relevant Existing Laws

Currently, the Public School Code does not address the guidelines for What Is Your Pennsylvania Story.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

2023-2024 Legislative Session:

HB2599- passed House 192-10 on 10/21/2024 and referred to Senate Education Committee with no further action.

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