

of December thirty-first, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-four. Thereafter certificates shall be issued for [no longer than one year] *a period of two years*. All certificates shall expire on the thirty-first day of December [next] *of each succeeding biennium* unless renewed for the next [year] *biennium*. Certificates may be renewed by application made prior to the thirty-first day of December of each [year] *succeeding biennium*, and the payment of the renewal fees provided in this act.

APPROVED—The 22nd day of December, A. D. 1959.

DAVID L. LAWRENCE

No. 742

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," prohibiting the closing of schools or departments during the school term, and providing for the payment of the salaries of professional employes in such cases, changing provisions relating to excuses from attending school.

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

Public School
Code of 1949.

Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L. 30), known as the "Public School Code of 1949," is amended by adding, after section 523, a new section to read:

Act of March 10,
1949, P. L. 30,
amended by
adding a new
section 524.

Section 524. The board of school directors of any school district or vocational school district, including merged or union districts, and any boards of school directors establishing any joint school or department, shall not close any school or department during the school term, unless such action shall advance the orderly development of attendance areas within an administrative unit approved by the State Council of Education and has been approved by the county board of school directors and the Department of Public Instruction. In the event a school board shall determine prior to the beginning of the next school term to close any school or department, sixty (60) days' notice, in writing, prior to the closing of any school or department, shall be given to all temporary professional and professional employes affected thereby, unless such action shall advance the orderly development of attendance areas within an administrative unit approved by the State Council of Education and has been approved by the county board of school directors and the Department of Public

Instruction. Upon failure to give written notice of intention to close any school or department, the school district shall pay such employes their salaries until the end of the school year during which such schools or departments were closed.

*Temporary professional or professional employes, whose positions are abolished as a result of the action of the board of school directors in closing a school or department, or reassigning pupils in its effort to *consummate partially or wholly the orderly development of administrative and attendance areas approved by the State Council of Education, may not be suspended until the end of the school year if such action is taken during the school year or later than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the next school term.*

*The payment of salary to any temporary professional or professional employe shall be discontinued immediately, if **such employe obtains other employment which, in the judgment of the board of school directors, could not have been obtained or held if such school or department had not been closed: Provided, however, That if the salary in the new position is less than the salary the professional employe would have received had he remained in the employment of the school district, the school district shall be liable for the difference.*

Section 2. Section 1329 of the act is amended to read:

Section 1329. Excuses from Attending School.—The board of school directors of any school district may, upon certification by any licensed practitioner of the healing arts or upon any other satisfactory evidence being furnished to it, showing that any child or children are prevented from attending school, or from application to study, on account of any mental, physical, or other urgent reasons, excuse such child or children from attending school as required by the provisions of this act, but the term "urgent reasons" shall be strictly construed and shall not permit of irregular attendance. In every such case, such action by the board of school directors shall not be final until the approval of the Department of Public Instruction has been obtained. Every principal or teacher in any public, private, or other school may, for reasons enumerated above, excuse any child for non-attendance during temporary periods.

Effective date.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1959.

APPROVED—The 28th day of December, A. D. 1959.

DAVID L. LAWRENCE

* "consummate" in original.

** "scuh" in original.