

THE GOVERNOR

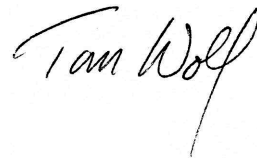
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Proclamation; House Bill No. 2787, Printer's No. 4334

I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have caused this Proclamation to issue and, in compliance with the provisions of Section 15 of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby give notice that I have filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, with my objections thereto, the following bill passed by both houses of the General Assembly at the Regular Session of 2019-2020:

House Bill No. 2787, Printer's No. 4334, entitled "An Act [a]mending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L. 30, No. 14), 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,' in school health services, providing for precautions against spread of COVID-19; and, in terms and courses of study, providing for sports and extracurricular activities during COVID-19 pandemic."

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the County of Dauphin, this twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and forty-fifth.



Governor

Attest:

JONATHAN MARKS,
Deputy Secretary for Elections and Commissions

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 20-1340. Filed for public inspection October 2, 2020, 9:00 a.m.]

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Notice of Veto; House Bill 2787, Printer's No. 4334

September 21, 2020

To the Honorable House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 2787, Printer's Number 4334.

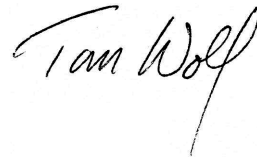
We have been confronting extraordinary challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue the fight against COVID-19, we need to continue to prioritize the health and welfare of Pennsylvanians and minimize public health risks. However, this bill does nothing to promote public health or ensure that our children have a safe learning environment. As we reopen our schools, we need to continue to be vigilant and take precautions to keep ourselves, our communities, and our children healthy. These mitigation efforts not only help keep our children, teachers, and staff healthy, they also help keep our schools open.

This bill is entirely unnecessary. While I recommended against holding school sports before January 2021, it was a recommendation and neither an order nor a mandate. Local school governing bodies have maintained the authority to decide how extracurricular activities, including school sports, proceed at the local level. Furthermore, to the extent COVID-19 cases may rise and spread during the fall and through the upcoming cold and flu season, the Department of Health must maintain the critical authority to limit exposure to COVID-19. Minimizing this exposure is paramount.

This bill also has constitutional infirmities as it attempts to take away executive authority during the 2020-2021 school year. Instead of unnecessary legislation, we need to focus on providing schools the tools and resources they need to be successful in educating our children and we need to help people impacted by the pandemic with legislation such as funding for small businesses and child care, and paid sick leave for employees.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 2787, Printer's Number 4334.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Governor

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 20-1341. Filed for public inspection October 2, 2020, 9:00 a.m.]