

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1489 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY E. NELSON, MOUL, MIHALEK, M. MACKENZIE, MAJOR, IRVIN, WARNER, KAUFFMAN, MUSTELLO, SHUSTERMAN, COOPER, DIAMOND, RADER, COOK, BERNSTINE, HAMM, FINK, STRUZZI, KEEFER, GREGORY AND EMRICK, JUNE 22, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 22, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
 2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
 3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
 4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
 5 laws relating thereto," in Ready-to-Succeed Scholarship,  
 6 further providing for agency; and adding provisions relating  
 7 to funding for higher education by providing for limitation  
 8 on funding for University of Pittsburgh, for limitations on  
 9 funding for supplemental support to the agency and the State  
 10 System of Higher Education and for study for divestiture of  
 11 University of Pittsburgh.

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

14 Section 1. Section 2204-B(b)(1) of the act of March 10, 1949  
 15 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
 16 amended July 8, 2022 (P.L.620, No.55), is amended to read:

17 Section 2204-B. Agency.

18 \* \* \*

19 (b) Eligibility criteria.--The eligibility criteria  
 20 developed for the receipt of a scholarship under subsection (a)  
 21 shall, at a minimum, require all of the following:

1 (1) Total annual household income not to exceed  
2 [\$126,000.] an amount established by the agency, which amount  
3 may not exceed \$200,000 during the first award year in which  
4 the amount may be so established. With each new award year,  
5 the agency may annually adjust the total annual household  
6 income threshold under this paragraph based on the agency's  
7 available resources and to reflect any upward changes in the  
8 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the  
9 Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland area. The  
10 agency shall transmit annually a notice that includes the  
11 amount established or adjusted under this paragraph to the  
12 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the next  
13 available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 2. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

16 ARTICLE XXII-C

17 HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

18 Section 2201-C. Definitions.

19 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
20 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
21 context clearly indicates otherwise:

22 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
23 Agency.

24 "Committee." The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee.

25 "Ready-to-Succeed Scholarship Program." The program  
26 established under Article XXII-B.

27 "State grant." A grant or scholarship awarded under the act  
28 of January 25, 1966 (1965 P.L.1546, No.541), referred to as the  
29 Higher Education Scholarship Law.

30 "State System of Higher Education." The State System of

1 Higher Education established under Article XX-A.

2 "Targeted Industry Cluster Certificate Scholarship Program."

3 The program established under section 2599.4.

4 "University of Pittsburgh." The university, including its  
5 regional campuses, established under the act of July 28, 1966  
6 (3rd Sp.Sess., P.L.87, No.3), known as the University of  
7 Pittsburgh--Commonwealth Act.

8 Section 2202-C. Limitation on funding to University of  
9 Pittsburgh.

10 (a) General rule.--The University of Pittsburgh may not  
11 receive an appropriation from the Commonwealth that exceeds the  
12 following amounts:

13 (1) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the amount may not  
14 exceed \$151,507,000.

15 (2) For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the amount may not  
16 exceed \$113,630,000.

17 (3) For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the amount may not  
18 exceed \$75,754,000.

19 (4) For the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the amount may not  
20 exceed \$37,877,000.

21 (b) Exception.--Subsection (a) does not apply to an  
22 appropriation from the Commonwealth to the University of  
23 Pittsburgh for rural education outreach.

24 Section 2203-C. Limitation on funding for supplemental support.

25 (a) Agency funding.--The agency may not receive an  
26 appropriation from the Commonwealth for the purpose of  
27 supplemental support that exceeds the following amounts:

28 (1) For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the amount may not  
29 exceed 50% of the difference between \$151,507,000 and the  
30 amount appropriated by the Commonwealth to the University of

1 Pittsburgh for that fiscal year, excluding any amount  
2 appropriated for rural education outreach.

3 (2) For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the amount may not  
4 exceed 50% of the difference between \$151,507,000 and the  
5 amount appropriated by the Commonwealth to the University of  
6 Pittsburgh for that fiscal year, excluding any amount  
7 appropriated for rural education outreach.

8 (3) For the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the amount may not  
9 exceed 50% of the difference between \$151,507,000 and the  
10 amount appropriated by the Commonwealth to the University of  
11 Pittsburgh for that fiscal year, excluding any amount  
12 appropriated for rural education outreach.

13 (4) For the 2027-2028 fiscal year, the amount may not  
14 exceed 50% of the difference between \$151,507,000 and the  
15 amount appropriated by the Commonwealth to the University of  
16 Pittsburgh for that fiscal year, excluding any amount  
17 appropriated for rural education outreach.

18 (b) Funding for State System of Higher Education.--The State  
19 System of Higher Education may not receive an appropriation from  
20 the Commonwealth for supplemental support that exceeds the  
21 following amounts:

22 (1) For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the amount may not  
23 exceed 50% of the difference between \$151,507,000 and the  
24 amount appropriated by the Commonwealth to the University of  
25 Pittsburgh for that fiscal year, excluding any amount  
26 appropriated for rural education outreach.

27 (2) For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the amount may not  
28 exceed 50% of the difference between \$151,507,000 and the  
29 amount appropriated by the Commonwealth to the University of  
30 Pittsburgh for that fiscal year, excluding any amount

1 appropriated for rural education outreach.

2 (3) For the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the amount may not  
3 exceed 50% of the difference between \$151,507,000 and the  
4 amount appropriated by the Commonwealth to the University of  
5 Pittsburgh for that fiscal year, excluding any amount  
6 appropriated for rural education outreach.

7 (4) For the 2027-2028 fiscal year, the amount may not  
8 exceed 50% of the difference between \$151,507,000 and the  
9 amount appropriated by the Commonwealth to the University of  
10 Pittsburgh for that fiscal year, excluding any amount  
11 appropriated for rural education outreach.

12 (c) Allocation by agency.--The agency shall distribute money  
13 appropriated by the Commonwealth on a pro rata basis to the  
14 State grant, Ready-to-Succeed Scholarship Program and Targeted  
15 Industry Cluster Certificate Scholarship Program.

16 (d) Supplement not supplant.--Money allocated under this  
17 section shall be used to supplement and not supplant existing  
18 funding.

19 Section 2204-C. Study for divestiture of University of  
20 Pittsburgh.

21 (a) Duty to conduct study.--The committee shall conduct a  
22 study to establish a process for removing the State-related  
23 designation from the University of Pittsburgh. The study shall  
24 include the following:

25 (1) A process to return the University of Pittsburgh to  
26 a status as a private institution of higher education within  
27 five years of the effective date of this section.

28 (2) A process for the phased removal of Commonwealth-  
29 appointed Board of Trustees members from the board of the  
30 University of Pittsburgh.

1           (3) Identifying the existing Commonwealth statutes that  
2 would need to be amended or repealed in order to remove the  
3 State-related status of the University of Pittsburgh.

4           (4) Identifying all Commonwealth-owned property and  
5 buildings on the University of Pittsburgh's campuses and a  
6 recommendation on the transfer or sale of that property to  
7 the University of Pittsburgh.

8           (5) An assessment of any potential fiscal impact  
9 incurred by the University of Pittsburgh due to the loss of  
10 its State-related status.

11       (b) Report to General Assembly.--The committee shall submit  
12 a final report with recommendations to the General Assembly no  
13 later than May 1, 2024, for review and any appropriate  
14 legislative action.

15       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023, or  
16 immediately, whichever is later.