

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2398 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY SCHWEYER, JUNE 10, 2024

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 26, 2024

AN ACT

~~Amending 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," providing for institutions of higher education.~~

AMENDING 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 TRANSFERS OF CREDITS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS AND FOR DUTIES OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, PROVIDING FOR GUARANTEED ADMISSION, FOR REPORTS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, FOR DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT AND FOR APPLICABILITY; IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS AND PROVIDING FOR STUDENT FEE TRANSPARENCY; AND PROVIDING FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND DUAL CREDIT INNOVATION AND EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM.

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

~~Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an article to read:~~

SECTION 1. SECTION 2001-C OF THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949

1 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, IS
2 AMENDED BY ADDING DEFINITIONS TO READ:
3 SECTION 2001-C. DEFINITIONS.

4 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE
5 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
6 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

7 * * *

8 "PARALLEL BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM." A BACHELOR'S DEGREE
9 PROGRAM IN A COMPARABLE FIELD OF STUDY AND WITH SIMILAR
10 FOUNDATION-LEVEL, MAJOR-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES AS AN ASSOCIATE
11 DEGREE PROGRAM, AS ARTICULATED IN PROGRAM-TO-PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.

12 * * *

13 "RECEIVING INSTITUTION." THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
14 EDUCATION WHERE A TRANSFER STUDENT PLANS TO ENROLL AND TO APPLY
15 PREVIOUSLY EARNED CREDIT TOWARD A DEGREE PROGRAM.

16 * * *

17 SECTION 2. SECTION 2002-C(C) (1) OF THE ACT IS AMENDED TO
18 READ:

19 SECTION 2002-C. DUTIES OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
20 EDUCATION.

21 * * *

22 (C) OTHER DUTIES.--EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
23 EDUCATION SHALL DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

24 (1) AGREE TO ACCEPT WITH FULL JUNIOR STANDING THE
25 ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE [INTO A] AND
26 TO APPLY ALL COLLEGE-LEVEL CREDITS EARNED TO FULFILL THE
27 DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AT THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
28 EDUCATION, INCLUDING MAJOR REQUIREMENTS AND GENERAL EDUCATION
29 REQUIREMENTS, TOWARD THE PARALLEL BACCALAUREATE DEGREE
30 PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH (3) [BY THE TIMELINES

1 ESTABLISHED BY THE TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION OVERSIGHT
2 COMMITTEE BUT] NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, [2011] 2024. FOR
3 PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR ASSOCIATE
4 OF SCIENCE DEGREE IS A DEGREE DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR TRANSFER
5 TO A BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTION AND MUST CONTAIN A MINIMUM OF
6 60 CREDITS. THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

7 (I) A STUDENT WITH AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR ASSOCIATE
8 OF SCIENCE DEGREE FROM A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
9 EDUCATION WHO IS TRANSFERRING INTO A PARALLEL
10 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM AT ANOTHER PUBLIC
11 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL BE AWARDED FULL
12 JUNIOR STANDING AND SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO
13 SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE MORE THAN 60 CREDITS TO EARN A
14 120 CREDIT BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN A PARALLEL PROGRAM,
15 REGARDLESS OF THE COURSES THE STUDENT TOOK TO EARN THE
16 ASSOCIATE DEGREE PRIOR TO TRANSFERRING, UNLESS REQUIRED
17 TO MEET ACCREDITATION OR EXTERNAL LICENSURE OR
18 CERTIFICATION STANDARDS.

19 (II) A STUDENT TRANSFERRING FROM ONE PUBLIC
20 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ANOTHER PUBLIC
21 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL HAVE THE SAME
22 REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO A PARTICULAR ACADEMIC
23 PROGRAM AND FOR RETENTION AS A STUDENT WHO BEGAN THEIR
24 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AT THE RECEIVING INSTITUTION.

25 (III) A STUDENT TRANSFERRING INTO A PARALLEL
26 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM WITH AN ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE
27 OR ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE SHALL BE GUARANTEED ADMISSION
28 TO THE PARALLEL BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO
29 CAPACITY, IF THE STUDENT MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION
30 REQUIRED OF STUDENTS WHO BEGAN THEIR EDUCATION AT THE

1 RECEIVING INSTITUTION.

2 (IV) A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY
3 DESIGNATE MAJORS OR PROGRAMS OF STUDY THAT ARE LIMITED
4 ACCESS BY REASON OF ACCREDITATION, CLINICAL OR RESOURCE-
5 BASED CAPACITY.

6 (V) A STUDENT TRANSFERRING FROM A PUBLIC INSTITUTION
7 OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITH AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR
8 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE OR WHO HAS COMPLETED 30
9 CREDITS OF FOUNDATION COURSES, AS DEFINED BY THE TRANSFER
10 AND ARTICULATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, SHALL HAVE
11 SATISFIED THE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AT THE
12 RECEIVING INSTITUTION, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTIONS MADE FOR
13 THE FOLLOWING, PROVIDED THAT THE EXCEPTIONS DO NOT EXTEND
14 THE STUDENT'S TIME TO THE DEGREE:

15 (A) ONE SIGNATURE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE OF UP
16 TO THREE CREDITS, IF APPLICABLE.

17 (B) A PRESCRIBED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE
18 REQUIRED FOR THE MAJOR, IF NOT SATISFACTORILY
19 COMPLETED.

20 (C) GENERAL EDUCATION OVERLAYS SATISFIED IN
21 ADVANCED COURSES IN THE MAJOR.

22 * * *

23 SECTION 3. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING SECTIONS TO READ:
24 SECTION 2003.1-C. GUARANTEED ADMISSION.

25 (A) PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.--A PUBLIC
26 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ENSURE THE FOLLOWING:

27 (1) AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT TRANSFERRING FROM A PUBLIC
28 COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITH AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR ASSOCIATE OF
29 SCIENCE DEGREE SHALL BE GUARANTEED ADMISSION INTO THE
30 PARALLEL BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION

1 OF HIGHER EDUCATION EXCEPT IN PROGRAMS THAT HAVE MANDATED
2 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

3 (I) A PROGRAM FOR TEACHER PREPARATION.

4 (II) A PROGRAM REQUIRING AN AUDITION.

5 (III) A PROGRAM WITH GPA REQUIREMENTS.

6 (IV) A PROGRAM WITH ADDITIONAL ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
7 IMPOSED BY AN ACCREDITOR.

8 (2) STARTING WITH THE 2025 SPRING SEMESTER,
9 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THIS
10 COMMONWEALTH WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE WHO FULFILL THE
11 REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) SHALL RECEIVE PRIORITY
12 ENROLLMENT IN UPPER DIVISION COURSEWORK AT THE RECEIVING
13 INSTITUTION OVER OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS.

14 (B) PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE.--A PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
15 SHALL ENSURE THE FOLLOWING:

16 (1) AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT TRANSFERRING FROM A PUBLIC
17 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITH AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR
18 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE SHALL BE GUARANTEED ADMISSION
19 INTO THE PARALLEL BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM AT A PUBLIC
20 COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCEPT IN PROGRAMS THAT HAVE MANDATED
21 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

22 (I) A PROGRAM FOR TEACHER PREPARATION.

23 (II) A PROGRAM REQUIRING AN AUDITION.

24 (III) A PROGRAM WITH GPA REQUIREMENTS.

25 (IV) A PROGRAM WITH ADDITIONAL ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
26 IMPOSED BY AN ACCREDITOR.

27 (2) STARTING WITH THE 2024 SPRING SEMESTER,
28 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS FROM A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
29 EDUCATION IN THIS COMMONWEALTH WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE WHO
30 FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) SHALL RECEIVE

1 PRIORITY ENROLLMENT IN UPPER DIVISION COURSEWORK AT THE
2 PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE OVER OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS.
3 SECTION 2003.2-C. REPORTS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4 FOR EACH ACADEMIC YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRESCRIBE DATA
5 REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
6 EDUCATION AND REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE FOLLOWING:

7 (1) DETAILS OF THE PROGRESS MADE BY A PUBLIC INSTITUTION
8 OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND AN INSTITUTION THAT ELECTS TO
9 PARTICIPATE UNDER SECTION 2006-C IN FURTHERANCE OF ENABLING
10 THE TRANSFER OF CREDITS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS, AND WHICH
11 RECOMMENDS FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO ENSURE ALL STUDENTS
12 WHICH HAVE COMPLETED CREDITS IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES, SHALL BE
13 ABLE TO TRANSFER THOSE CREDITS TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
14 EDUCATION AND ALL STUDENTS WHICH HAVE COMPLETED CREDITS IN AN
15 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL BE ABLE TO TRANSFER
16 THOSE CREDITS TO A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

17 (2) DETAILS OF THE ABILITY OF A STUDENT TO TRANSFER FROM
18 COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
19 FROM INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES,
20 INCLUDING THE ABILITY OF STUDENTS TO GRADUATE FROM
21 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THE REPORT UNDER THIS
22 SECTION SHALL ANNUALLY IDENTIFY ANY ISSUES ENCOUNTERED BY
23 STUDENTS IN TRANSFERRING FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO
24 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS WELL AS ISSUES
25 ENCOUNTERED BY TRANSFER STUDENTS IN GRADUATING FROM
26 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

27 (3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO STUDENT TRANSFER,
28 AWARDING OF CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING OR DIFFICULTIES IN THE
29 ABILITY OF A STUDENT TO TRANSFER BETWEEN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
30 OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

1 SECTION 2003.3-C. DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

2 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A DISPUTE
3 RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR DISPUTES ARISING OVER THE ACCEPTANCE OF
4 TRANSFER STUDENTS AND CREDITS. THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE
5 SHALL:

6 (1) BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP:

7 (I) THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION OR A DESIGNEE, WHO
8 SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE.

9 (II) THREE MEMBERS REPRESENTING COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

10 (III) THREE MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE STATE SYSTEM OF
11 HIGHER EDUCATION.

12 (IV) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING STATE-RELATED
13 INSTITUTIONS.

14 (V) ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS
15 OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT HAVE ELECTED TO PARTICIPATE
16 UNDER SECTION 2006-C.

17 (VI) OTHER MEMBERS AS APPOINTED BY THE CHAIR OF THE
18 COMMITTEE TO THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE.

19 (2) CONTINUE TO DEVELOP DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICIES AND
20 PROCEDURES TO BE UTILIZED WHEN DISPUTES ARISE RELATING TO THE
21 TRANSFER AND APPLICATION OF CREDITS UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

22 (3) RESOLVE DISPUTES INVOLVING DISAGREEMENT OVER THE
23 TRANSFER OR AWARD OF CREDITS OR THE PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS
24 BETWEEN COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
25 EDUCATION.

26 (4) RESOLVE APPEALS FROM STUDENTS TRANSFERRING FROM
27 COMMUNITY COLLEGES WHO HAVE BEEN DENIED ACCEPTANCE TO AN
28 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AFTER THE COMPLETION OF AN
29 ASSOCIATE DEGREE AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR WHO HAVE BEEN
30 DENIED THE ACCEPTANCE OF COLLEGE-LEVEL CREDITS COMPLETED AT A

1 COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

2 (5) REPORT DECISIONS REGARDING DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS AND
3 APPEALS AS WELL AS THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE'S REASONS
4 FOR THOSE DECISIONS. REPORTS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE
5 PROVIDED REGULARLY TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
6 COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO INFORM THE APPLICATION OF THE
7 ARTICULATION PROCESS.

8 SECTION 4. SECTIONS 2004-C(B) AND (C) (5), 2005-C(4) (II) AND
9 2007-C OF THE ACT ARE AMENDED TO READ:

10 SECTION 2004-C. TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

11 * * *

12 [(B) DISPUTE RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE.--

13 (1) THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL APPOINT A DISPUTE
14 RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE COMPRISED OF:

15 (I) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) (1)

16 (II) (A) .

17 (II) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) (1)

18 (II) (B) .

19 (III) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) (1)

20 (II) (D) .

21 (2) THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE MAY ADD MEMBERS TO THE
22 DISPUTE RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE.

23 (3) THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE SHALL DEVELOP
24 DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO BE UTILIZED
25 WHEN DISPUTES ARISE RELATING TO THE TRANSFER AND APPLICATION
26 OF CREDITS UNDER THIS ARTICLE.]

27 (C) DUTIES OF TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION OVERSIGHT
28 COMMITTEE.--THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

29 * * *

30 [(5) SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 THAT DETAILS THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF
2 HIGHER EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS THAT ELECT TO PARTICIPATE
3 UNDER SECTION 2006-C IN FURTHERANCE OF ENABLING THE TRANSFER
4 OF CREDITS BETWEEN SUCH INSTITUTIONS AND WHICH RECOMMENDS
5 FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN.]

6 * * *

7 SECTION 2005-C. DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT.

8 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

9 * * *

10 (4) PROVIDE FOR AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE OR SOFTWARE
11 PROGRAM AND PORTAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ACCESS TO ALL
12 OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON AN INTERNET WEBSITE:

13 * * *

14 (II) THE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS
15 REQUIRED BY SECTION [2004-C(C)(5)] 2003.2-C.

16 SECTION 2007-C. APPLICABILITY.

17 [NOTHING] EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED, NOTHING IN THIS
18 ARTICLE SHALL [DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING]:

19 (1) PRECLUDE ANY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM
20 ESTABLISHING INSTITUTION-TO-INSTITUTION ARTICULATION
21 AGREEMENTS.

22 (2) VOID ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN
23 ESTABLISHED PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

24 SECTION 5. SECTION 2001-H OF THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING
25 DEFINITIONS TO READ:

26 SECTION 2001-H. DEFINITIONS.

27 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE
28 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE
29 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

30 * * *

1 "MANDATORY FEE." A CHARGE IMPOSED BY AN INSTITUTION OF
2 HIGHER EDUCATION TO ALL OF THE INSTITUTION'S STUDENTS,
3 IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR COURSE OR ADMISSION STATUS, FOR ENROLLMENT
4 OR ATTENDANCE FOR ITEMS NOT COVERED BY TUITION, ROOM OR BOARD
5 FEES.

6 * * *

7 "ONLINE STUDENT PORTAL." A SECURED INTERNAL INTERNET SERVICE
8 ADMINISTERED BY AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ON WHICH A
9 STUDENT OF THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION CAN ACCESS
10 PERSONAL ACADEMIC, FINANCIAL OR OTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO
11 ATTENDING THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

12 * * *

13 SECTION 6. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:
14 SECTION 2004-H. STUDENT FEE TRANSPARENCY.

15 (A) DISPLAY.--AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL
16 PROMINENTLY DISPLAY A DESCRIPTION OF EVERY MANDATORY FEE CHARGED
17 BY THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SHALL PUBLISH THE FEE
18 DESCRIPTION ON EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S PUBLICLY
19 ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE AND ONLINE STUDENT PORTAL PRIOR TO
20 THE TERM FOR WHICH THE MANDATORY FEE WILL BE CHARGED AND
21 INCLUDED IN ANY TUITION BILL. THE AMOUNT OF THE MANDATORY FEE
22 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DESCRIPTION OF:

23 (1) THE GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE MANDATORY FEE.

24 (2) HOW THE MANDATORY FEE IS EXPECTED TO BE ALLOCATED
25 AND USED.

26 (3) HOW THE MANDATORY FEE WILL BE COLLECTED AND THE
27 ACADEMIC YEAR OR SEMESTER FOR WHICH THE FEE WILL BE ASSESSED.

28 (B) PUBLICATION OF FEES.--BEGINNING NOVEMBER 15, 2025, AND
29 BY NOVEMBER 15 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
30 EDUCATION SHALL PUBLISH ON THE INSTITUTION'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE

1 INTERNET WEBSITE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM THE PRIOR
2 ACADEMIC YEAR:

3 (1) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MANDATORY FEES COLLECTED.

4 (2) THE AMOUNT OF MANDATORY FEES ALLOCATED TO EACH USE.

5 (C) LINKING.--BEGINNING ON JUNE 30, 2026, AND BY JUNE 30 OF
6 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL
7 PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH A LINK TO THE FEE INFORMATION
8 PUBLISHED ON THE INSTITUTION'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET
9 WEBSITE.

10 SECTION 7. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING AN ARTICLE TO READ:

11 ARTICLE XX-L

12 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

13 SUBARTICLE A

14 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

15 Section 2001-L. Definitions.

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

19 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance
20 Agency.

21 "Board." The State Board of Higher Education established
22 under section 2010-L.

23 "Community college." An institution created under Article
24 XIX-A or the act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484), known as
25 the Community College Act of 1963.

26 "Department." The Department of Education of the
27 Commonwealth.

28 "Financial aid." Funding to help a student pay for
29 postsecondary education, including grants, work study, loans and
30 scholarships.

1 "Grant program." The Pennsylvania Tuition Assistance Grant
2 Program established under section 2040-L.

3 "High-priority occupation." An occupation identified by the
4 Department of Labor and Industry under the act of December 18,
5 2001 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act.

6 "Higher Education Scholarship Law." The act of January 25,
7 1966 (1965 P.L.1546, No.541), referred to as the Higher
8 Education Scholarship Law.

9 "Independent institution of higher education." An
10 institution of higher education which is operated not for
11 profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by the
12 Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees as specified in 24
13 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees) and to
14 apply to itself the designation "college" or "university" as
15 provided for by the standards and qualifications prescribed by
16 the State Board of Education under 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65 (relating
17 to private colleges, universities and seminaries).

18 "Institution of higher education." As defined in section
19 1501-L.

20 "Institutional aid." Financial aid offered to an eligible
21 student directly by an institution of higher education,
22 including merit aid, gift aid and athletic awards.

23 "Pell Grant." The Federal Pell Grant or any successor
24 program.

25 "Pennsylvania State grant." A grant or scholarship awarded
26 under the Higher Education Scholarship Law.

27 "Private scholarship." Financial aid awards funded by
28 entities other than the Federal or State Government, including
29 awards by companies, service groups, foundations, organizations
30 and individuals.

1 "Program." The State-Related University Grant Program
2 established under section 2032-L.

3 "Public institution of higher education." A State-owned
4 university, community college or State-related university.

5 "State-owned university." An institution which is part of
6 the State System of Higher Education under Article XX-A.

7 "State-related university." The Pennsylvania State
8 University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University,
9 Lincoln University and the Pennsylvania College of Technology.

10 "State System of Higher Education." The system established
11 under Article XX-A.

12 Section 2002-L. Findings and purpose.

13 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

14 (1) Pennsylvanians deserve the freedom to chart their
15 own course and the opportunity to succeed by entering the
16 workforce or pursuing higher education.

17 (2) Accessible, affordable higher education is a
18 critical component to prepare our workforce and serve as the
19 foundation of Pennsylvania's economic success.

20 (3) For decades, Pennsylvania has not prioritized
21 investment in its higher education sector, leaving the
22 financial burden of higher education on institutions and
23 students.

24 (4) The lack of Statewide coordination or a strategic
25 vision aligned to the needs of Pennsylvanians has led to too
26 much competition and duplication in some parts of the
27 Commonwealth, and too little access to postsecondary
28 education in others.

29 (5) The establishment of the State Board of Higher
30 Education will provide leadership and coordination for the

1 Commonwealth's higher education system, institutions and
2 governing boards to achieve excellence for postsecondary
3 education through the efficient and effective utilization and
4 concentration of all available resources. The board shall
5 ensure that Pennsylvania is producing the postsecondary
6 credentials and degrees needed to address current and future
7 workforce gaps.

8 (6) Funding to public institutions of higher education
9 via predictable, transparent and outcomes-focused formulas
10 established in this article will align State dollars with the
11 needs of this Commonwealth.

12 (7) The grant program and the Pennsylvania State grant
13 supplement established in this article will put this
14 Commonwealth on a path to prosperity by ensuring that
15 students have an affordable pathway to a high-quality college
16 credential or degree.

17 SUBARTICLE B

18 COORDINATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

19 Section 2010-L. State Board of Higher Education.

20 (a) Establishment.--The State Board of Higher Education is
21 established within the department.

22 (b) Purpose.--The purpose of the board is to provide
23 direction, coordination and support to ensure that institutions
24 of higher education fully meet the workforce and economic
25 development needs of this Commonwealth and ensure that all
26 residents of this Commonwealth have access to affordable, world-
27 class postsecondary education.

28 (c) Membership and appointment.--The board shall consist of
29 15 voting members. In making appointments to the board, the
30 Governor shall ensure that the appointee is a Pennsylvania

1 resident and has the background and experience suitable for
2 performing the statutory responsibility of a member of the
3 board. Membership of the board shall be as follows:

4 (1) The Secretary of Education or a designee who shall
5 be an employee of the department.

6 (2) The Secretary of Labor and Industry or a designee
7 who shall be an employee of the Department of Labor and
8 Industry.

9 (3) One member of the Senate appointed by the President
10 pro tempore of the Senate or a designee who shall be an
11 employee of the Senate.

12 (4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
13 Leader of the Senate or a designee who shall be an employee
14 of the Senate.

15 (5) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
16 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or a designee
17 who shall be an employee of the House of Representatives.

18 (6) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
19 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives or a
20 designee who shall be an employee of the House of
21 Representatives.

22 (7) Nine members shall be appointed by the Governor as
23 follows:

24 (i) One representative of a State-owned university,
25 including a president, administrator or local trustee.

26 (ii) One representative of a community college,
27 including a president, administrator or board member.

28 (iii) One representative of an independent
29 institution of higher education, including a president,
30 administrator or board member.

1 (iv) One representative of a State-related
2 university, including a president, administrator or local
3 trustee.

4 (v) One representative of a historically black
5 college and university, including a president,
6 administrator or board member.

7 (vi) ~~One representative~~ TWO REPRESENTATIVES of a <--
8 union representing employees at public institutions of
9 higher education.

10 (vii) One representative of business.

11 (VIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM CAREER AND TECHNICAL <--
12 EDUCATION.

13 ~~(viii)~~ (IX) Two students who attend an institution <--
14 of higher education.

15 (d) Term.--The term of office of appointed members under
16 subsection (c) (7) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), ~~(vi)~~ and (vii) <--
17 shall be for a period of six years or until a successor is
18 appointed and qualified, except that, of the initial appointees,
19 the Governor shall designate two members to serve terms of two
20 years, two members to serve terms of four years and three
21 members to serve terms of six years. The Secretary of Education
22 and the Secretary of Labor and Industry shall serve as long as
23 they continue in office. Members of the board appointed by the
24 General Assembly shall serve a term of office concurrent with
25 their respective elective terms as members of the General
26 Assembly. A student's term shall be for a period of two years or
27 upon graduation, separation or failure to maintain good academic
28 standing at the institution of higher education in which the
29 student is enrolled. THE MEMBERS UNDER SUBSECTION (C) (7) (VI) MAY <--
30 NOT SERVE MORE THAN ONE CONSECUTIVE TERM.

1 (e) Organization.--The Governor shall designate a chair and
2 vice chair of the board. The members shall select from among
3 themselves such officers as they deem necessary.

4 (f) Quorum and meetings.--

5 (1) A majority of members shall constitute a quorum for
6 the transaction of any business.

7 (2) The board shall meet to conduct official business no
8 less than once every three months or by the call of the
9 chair.

10 (g) Expenses.--Members shall receive no compensation for
11 their services but shall be reimbursed for the expenses
12 necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

13 (h) Initial appointment and vacancies.--An appointing
14 authority shall appoint members to the board within 30 days of
15 the establishment of the board. If a vacancy occurs on the
16 board, the appointing authority shall appoint a successor member
17 within 30 days of the vacancy.

18 (i) Removal of board members.--An appointed member who fails
19 to attend three consecutive board meetings shall forfeit their
20 membership on the board, unless the chair, upon written request
21 from the member, determines that the member should be excused
22 from a meeting or meetings for good cause.

23 (j) Administrative services and staff.--

24 (1) The board shall select an individual to serve as the
25 executive director to advise the board on the formulation of
26 the board's policies, oversee the implementation of the
27 board's policies and responsibilities and supervise the
28 board's development of the higher education strategic plan,
29 the collection and analysis of data, the development of
30 policy recommendations and the production of annual reports

1 and other activities.

2 (2) The department shall, in consultation with the
3 executive director, provide administrative services and
4 additional staff to the board. The board shall be entitled to
5 legal counsel as designated by the Office of General Counsel.

6 (k) Applicability.--The following acts shall apply to the
7 board:

8 (1) The act of July 19, 1957 (P.L.1017, No.451), known
9 as the State Adverse Interest Act.

10 (2) The act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as
11 the Right-to-Know Law.

12 (3) The provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Chs. 7 (relating to
13 open meetings) and 11 (relating to ethics standards and
14 financial disclosure).

15 Section 2011-L. Powers and duties of State Board of Higher
16 Education.

17 (a) General rule.--The board is charged with the duty to
18 take an active part in promoting quality, accessible and
19 affordable postsecondary education throughout this Commonwealth
20 by:

21 (1) Providing planning and policy leadership, including
22 setting the Commonwealth's higher education policy agenda.

23 (2) Developing and advancing the higher education policy
24 agenda of the Commonwealth to address the challenges facing
25 Pennsylvania.

26 (3) Developing public consensus and awareness for the
27 Commonwealth's higher education policy agenda.

28 (b) General powers.--The board shall have and may exercise
29 all powers appropriate to carry out and effectuate the board's
30 purposes under this article, including, but not limited to:

1 (1) Adopt bylaws, if necessary.

2 (2) Make and execute contracts, grants and other
3 instruments.

4 (3) Apply for and receive money from any source
5 consistent with the purposes of this article.

6 (4) Establish subcommittees composed of members of the
7 board as the chair or board deems necessary.

8 (5) Establish advisory committees composed of nonmembers
9 of the board to consult with and advise the board.

10 (6) Hold public hearings, solicit public comment and
11 seek stakeholder input on the direction of higher education
12 in this Commonwealth.

13 (7) Perform other operational activities necessary or
14 appropriate to further the purposes of this article.

15 (c) Duties.--The board shall perform all duties appropriate
16 to carry out and effectuate the board's purposes under this
17 article, including, but not limited to:

18 (1) Develop and implement a higher education strategic
19 plan.

20 (2) Develop policy recommendations, including:

21 (i) Recommendations related to the alignment to the
22 higher education strategic plan that promote greater
23 postsecondary access, quality, affordability and
24 accountability.

25 (ii) Recommendations related to tuition and fees at
26 public institutions of higher education.

27 (iii) Recommendations related to new programs at
28 institutions of higher education to assist in avoiding
29 duplication and aligning to workforce needs.

30 (iv) Recommendations related to financial aid

1 policies of the Commonwealth.

2 (v) Recommendations related to the efficient and
3 effective use of State money for higher education.

4 (vi) Recommendations related to private licensed
5 schools, including recommended updates to the act of
6 December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the
7 Private Licensed Schools Act.

8 (3) Create a comprehensive data system for the
9 collection and analysis of postsecondary data to inform
10 policy recommendations and regularly assess progress against
11 strategic plan goals and performance against key outcomes.

12 The following apply:

13 (i) The board may require institutions of higher
14 education to report data for the purposes of this
15 paragraph in a form and manner prescribed by the board.

16 (ii) The provisions of section 118 shall not apply
17 to data collected under this paragraph.

18 (4) Facilitate the coordination and cooperation of
19 institutions of higher education to:

20 (i) Ensure broad access to high quality and
21 affordable postsecondary credentials and degrees.

22 (ii) Ensure the seamless transfer of credits and
23 credentials.

24 (iii) Utilize dual enrollment and credit to create
25 strong pathways to postsecondary education and reduce
26 time to degree.

27 (iv) Increase postsecondary credential attainment.

28 (v) Meet the economic and workforce development
29 needs of this Commonwealth with a focus on meeting the
30 needs of high-priority occupations.

1 (5) In conjunction with the K-12 sector, coordinate
2 workforce development and economic development sectors, with
3 a focus on meeting the needs of high-priority occupations, to
4 develop affordable pathways to postsecondary credentials that
5 are aligned to current and future workforce and economic
6 needs.

7 (6) Oversee the implementation of the higher education
8 funding formulas established under section 2030-L.

9 (7) Assist institutions of higher education with
10 assessing their fiscal health and provide technical support
11 as needed.

12 (d) Transfer of powers and duties.--

13 (1) All powers and duties of the State Board of
14 Education and the Council of Higher Education under Article
15 XIX-A shall be transferred to the board. This paragraph does
16 not apply to any application for a withdrawal of sponsorship
17 under section 1910-A filed prior to the effective date of
18 this paragraph.

19 (2) All powers and duties of the State Board of
20 Education and the Council of Higher Education under Article
21 XXVI-B related to community colleges shall be transferred to
22 the board.

23 (3) All files, records, contracts, agreements and other
24 materials which are used by the State Board of Education or
25 the Council of Higher Education in connection with the
26 powers, duties or functions exercised by the State Board of
27 Education or the Council of Higher Education related to
28 community colleges are hereby transferred to the board.

29 (4) A regulation adopted under Article XIX-A shall be
30 enforced by the board in collaboration with the State Board

1 of Education and shall continue to have the same force and
2 effect until modified or revised by the board.

3 (5) The board may promulgate regulations in order to
4 implement this subsection.

5 (6) The board, in consultation with the State Board of
6 Education, shall make recommendations to the Governor and
7 General Assembly no later than May 1, 2025, regarding the
8 appropriate delineation of roles and responsibilities of the
9 board, State Board of Education and department related to
10 higher education, including recommended legislation to update
11 Articles XIX-A and XXVI-B, and other related provisions of
12 this act.

13 (e) Coordination with State and local entities.--The board
14 shall:

15 (1) In consultation with the department, promote strong
16 pathways from grades K-12 through postsecondary credentials
17 and degrees.

18 (2) In consultation with the State Board of Education,
19 promote greater postsecondary access, quality and
20 affordability, including the use and quality of dual credit
21 and career and technical pathways.

22 (3) In consultation with the Pennsylvania Workforce
23 Development Board and local workforce development boards,
24 support institutions of higher education to offer programs in
25 high-priority occupations that meet this Commonwealth's
26 current and future workforce needs.

27 SECTION 2012-L. DUAL CREDIT INNOVATION AND EQUITY GRANT
28 PROGRAM.

29 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THE DUAL CREDIT INNOVATION AND EQUITY
30 GRANT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO AWARD

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1 GRANTS TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFER
2 DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A
3 SCHOOL ENTITY.

4 (B) USE OF FUNDS.--PROGRAM FUNDS SHALL BE USED FOR THE
5 PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE CAPACITY FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF
6 HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE DUAL CREDIT COURSES. FUNDS AWARDED
7 THROUGH A GRANT MAY BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

8 (1) TO OPERATE DUAL CREDIT COURSES THAT ARE TUITION FREE
9 TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

10 (2) TO SUPPORT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
11 IN SEEKING EXTERNAL ACCREDITATION FOR THEIR DUAL CREDIT
12 COURSES.

13 (3) TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM OF WRAPAROUND STUDENT SUPPORTS
14 TO AID STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DUAL CREDIT COURSES TO BE
15 SUCCESSFUL IN THE COURSES AND TO SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION TO
16 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION UPON GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

17 (4) TO INCREASE THE USE OF NO-COST OR LOW-COST TEXTBOOKS
18 OR COURSE MATERIALS USED IN DUAL CREDIT COURSES.

19 (5) FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR HIGH
20 SCHOOL TEACHERS TO ENABLE THEM TO TEACH DUAL CREDIT COURSES.

21 (C) PRIORITY.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE PRIORITY IN GRANT
22 FUNDING TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT EXPAND
23 THE CURRENT OFFERINGS OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
24 EDUCATION, WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PROVIDING COURSES
25 ALIGNED WITH HIGH PRIORITY CAREER PATHS AND SERVING STUDENTS
26 EXPERIENCING EDUCATION INSTABILITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1331.1,
27 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS,
28 LOW-INCOME STUDENTS, HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED STUDENT GROUPS AND
29 STUDENTS IN RURAL AREAS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

30 (D) REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY.--FOR THE PURPOSE OF

1 IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND TRANSPARENCY RELATED TO THE VALUE
2 OF DUAL CREDIT COURSES TO THE SUCCESS OF STUDENTS AS THEY
3 GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL AND TRANSITION TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION,
4 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY COLLECT STUDENT-LEVEL DATA FROM
5 GRANT RECIPIENTS AND POST AGGREGATE, DE-IDENTIFIED INFORMATION
6 RELATED TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLICLY
7 ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE:

8 (1) THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DUAL CREDIT
9 COURSES.

10 (2) THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED
11 IN DUAL CREDIT COURSES.

12 (3) THE PERCENTAGE OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED
13 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DUAL CREDIT COURSES AND THE PERCENTAGE
14 OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DUAL CREDIT COURSES WHO ARE
15 ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED.

16 (4) THE PERCENTAGE OF DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS WHO ENROLL IN
17 A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION THE FALL
18 AFTER GRADUATION, WITHIN ONE YEAR AND WITHIN TWO YEARS AFTER
19 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

20 (5) THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE CREDITS EARNED BY STUDENTS
21 ENROLLED IN DUAL CREDIT COURSES WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

22 (6) AN ESTIMATE OF THE COST SAVINGS TO THE FAMILIES OF
23 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DUAL CREDIT COURSES.

24 (7) THE PERCENTAGE OF DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS WHO ENROLL IN
25 A COMMUNITY COLLEGE, THADDEUS STEVENS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
26 OR THE NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL COLLEGE FOLLOWING HIGH
27 SCHOOL GRADUATION AND GO ON TO GRADUATE OR TRANSFER TO A
28 FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION WITHIN TWO, THREE AND FOUR YEARS OF
29 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

30 (8) THE PERCENTAGE OF DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS WHO ENROLL IN

1 A STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION FOLLOWING HIGH
2 SCHOOL GRADUATION AND GO ON TO GRADUATE IN FOUR, FIVE OR SIX
3 YEARS.

4 (9) THE PERCENTAGE OF DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS WHO ATTEND
5 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS LOCATED IN PENNSYLVANIA FOLLOWING
6 GRADUATION COMPARED TO THOSE WHO ATTEND OUT-OF-STATE
7 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.

8 (E) DEFINITIONS.--THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED
9 IN THIS SECTION SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS
10 SUBSECTION UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

11 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE
12 COMMONWEALTH.

13 "DUAL CREDIT." CREDIT RECEIVED UNDER AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN A
14 SCHOOL ENTITY AND AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION APPROVED TO
15 OPERATE IN THE COMMONWEALTH IN WHICH A STUDENT EARNS BOTH HIGH
16 SCHOOL AND POSTSECONDARY CREDIT BY TAKING A SINGLE POSTSECONDARY
17 COURSE.

18 "GRANT." A GRANT PROVIDED UNDER THE PROGRAM.

19 "PROGRAM." THE DUAL CREDIT INNOVATION AND EQUITY GRANT
20 PROGRAM.

21 "PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION." AN INSTITUTION OF
22 THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE
23 XX-A, A COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE XIX-A,
24 THADDEUS STEVENS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE
25 XIX-B OR THE RURAL REGIONAL COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE
26 XIX-G.

27 "SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, AREA CAREER AND
28 TECHNICAL SCHOOL, CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL OR
29 REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL.

30 Section 2012-~~H~~ 2013-L. Annual funding request.

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1 In addition to the submission required under section 610 of
2 the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The
3 Administrative Code of 1929, a public institution of higher
4 education shall provide a copy of its budget request to the
5 board.

6 Section ~~2013-B~~ 2014-L. Long-term strategic planning. <--

7 (a) Development of strategic plan.--The board shall be
8 responsible for developing a higher education strategic plan for
9 the Commonwealth. The plan shall:

10 (1) Establish long-term, measurable goals and provide
11 strategies for implementing those goals.

12 (2) Assess the higher education needs of this
13 Commonwealth as well as each region of this Commonwealth.

14 (3) Include all components required of the master plan
15 for higher education under section 2603-B(h).

16 (b) Adoption of strategic plan.--No later than September 1,
17 2025, the board shall adopt a higher education strategic plan.
18 The plan shall be reviewed and revised, as necessary, every five
19 years.

20 (c) Consultation.--In development of the strategic plan, the
21 board shall:

22 (1) Consult with and seek input from stakeholders,
23 including, but not limited to, faculty, staff, students and
24 administrators from institutions of higher education and
25 other stakeholders.

26 (2) Make the strategic plan available for review and
27 public comment for a period of not less than 30 days.

28 (3) Hold at least six regional public hearings as part
29 of the public comment process under paragraph (2).

30 (d) Annual reports.--Beginning May 1, 2026, and each May 1

1 thereafter, the board shall develop an annual report on the
2 status of the board and institutions of higher education. The
3 report shall include an update on the progress of the
4 implementation of the higher education strategic plan. As part
5 of the first annual report, the board shall include a review and
6 make recommendations related to the efficacy of the structure
7 and operation of the board.

8 (e) Transmittal of strategic plan and annual reports.--The
9 board shall post the strategic plan and annual reports on its
10 publicly accessible Internet website and transmit them to the
11 following individuals:

12 (1) The Governor.

13 (2) The General Assembly.

14 (3) The president of each institution of higher
15 education.

16 (4) The president of each bargaining unit that
17 represents employees at public institutions of higher
18 education.

19 SUBARTICLE C

20 ACCOUNTABILITY

21 Section 2030-L. Performance-based funding formulas.

22 (a) Duty of department.--The department shall develop
23 performance-based funding formulas to distribute State funding
24 to public institutions of higher education. In developing
25 performance-based funding formulas, the department shall:

26 (1) Consult with and solicit meaningful feedback and
27 guidance from presidents of public institutions of higher
28 education, faculty, staff and business leaders.

29 (2) Develop formulas based on methodology which allocate
30 State funding for public institutions of higher education in

1 a manner that provides the resources and incentives for
2 institutions of higher education to achieve desired outcomes.

3 (b) Goals of formulas.--The department shall consider the
4 following goals in the development of the formulas:

5 (1) Predictability to avoid dramatic changes over time
6 to the individual institutions of higher education or the
7 overall sector.

8 (2) Outcomes driven to align to the priorities of the
9 Commonwealth.

10 (3) Transparency to increase public trust.

11 (4) Differentiation by mission or sector to recognize
12 and reward institutions of higher education for outcomes
13 aligned with their unique missions.

14 (5) Resources and incentives to address systemic
15 inequities in student access and attainment.

16 (6) Flexibility to allow resources to be deployed to
17 address urgent or unpredictable priorities.

18 (7) The department may adjust the metrics in subsections
19 (c), (d) and (e) to accomplish the goals of this subsection.

20 (c) Metrics for community colleges.--The following metrics
21 shall be considered by the department in the development of the
22 formula for community colleges and included in the formula as
23 deemed appropriate by the department:

24 (1) A fixed amount per community college to support
25 basic operations. The fixed amount shall include a small
26 school adjustment to account for economies of scale.

27 (2) No less than 50% of the formula shall be based on
28 each community college's share of the total full-time
29 equivalent enrollment and headcount for all community
30 colleges. Total enrollment shall include in-State and out-of-

1 State students, degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking
2 students and graduate and undergraduate students in credit-
3 bearing courses.

4 (3) No less than 20% but no more than 25% of the formula
5 shall be based on student success outcomes. The formula shall
6 include outcome metrics as follows:

7 (i) The number of students reaching 15, 30 and 45
8 credit hour thresholds.

9 (ii) The number of students transferring from a
10 community college to a four-year institution of higher
11 education with at least 24 credit hours completed. An
12 additional weight shall be given for students
13 transferring to a State-owned university.

14 (iii) The number of students completing credit-
15 bearing credentials weighted to differentiate between
16 degree type.

17 (iv) The number of students completing credit-
18 bearing credentials aligned to high-priority occupations.

19 (4) Weights for priority populations shall be applied to
20 enrollment and outcome metrics, including weights for low-
21 income, under-represented student groups and students from
22 high schools with low college matriculation rates.

23 (d) Metrics for State-owned universities.--The following
24 metrics shall be considered by the department in the development
25 of the formula for State-owned universities and included in the
26 formula as deemed appropriate by the department:

27 (1) A fixed amount per State-owned university to support
28 basic operations. The fixed amount shall include:

29 (i) A small school adjustment to account for
30 economies of scale.

1 (ii) Set-asides for State-owned universities
2 consolidated under section 2002-A to account for multi-
3 campus costs.

4 (iii) An additional amount for a historically black
5 college and university.

6 (2) No less than 50% of the formula shall be based on
7 each State-owned university's share of the system's total
8 full-time equivalent enrollment and headcount. Total
9 enrollment shall include in-State and out-of-State students,
10 degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students and graduate
11 and undergraduate students in credit-bearing courses.

12 (3) No less than 20% but no more than 25% of the formula
13 shall be based on student success outcomes. The formula shall
14 include outcome metrics as follows:

15 (i) The number of students reaching 30, 60 and 90
16 credit hour thresholds.

17 (ii) The number of students transferring from a
18 community college to a State-owned university with at
19 least 24 credit hours completed.

20 (iii) The number of students completing credit-
21 bearing credentials weighted to differentiate between
22 degree type.

23 (iv) The number of students completing credit-
24 bearing credentials aligned to high-priority occupations.

25 (4) Weights for priority populations shall be applied to
26 enrollment and outcome metrics, including weights for low-
27 income, under-represented student groups and students from
28 high schools with low college matriculation rates.

29 (e) Metrics for State-related universities.--The following
30 metrics shall be considered by the department in the development

1 of the formula for State-related universities and included in
2 the formula as deemed appropriate by the department:

3 (1) A set-aside for a historically black college or
4 university.

5 (2) No more than 50% of the formula shall be based on
6 each State-related university's share of the total full-time
7 equivalent enrollment for all State-related universities. The
8 following apply:

9 (i) Total enrollment shall include in-State and out-
10 of-State students, degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking
11 students and graduate and undergraduate students in
12 credit-bearing courses.

13 (ii) Out-of-State students shall be weighted less
14 than in-State students.

15 (3) No less than 30% of the formula shall be based on
16 student success outcomes. The formula shall include outcome
17 metrics as follows:

18 (i) The number of students reaching 30, 60 and 90
19 credit hour thresholds.

20 (ii) The number of students completing credit-
21 bearing credentials.

22 (iii) The number of students completing credit-
23 bearing credentials aligned to high-priority occupations.

24 (4) Weights for priority populations shall be applied to
25 enrollment and outcome metrics, including weights for low-
26 income, under-represented student groups and students from
27 high schools with low college matriculation rates.

28 (f) Transmittal.--The department shall transmit a copy of
29 the performance-based funding formulas created under this
30 section to the following no later than March 1, 2025, and

1 include a timeline for implementation:

2 (1) The Governor.

3 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate.

4 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

5 (4) The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the
6 Senate.

7 (5) The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the
8 House of Representatives.

9 (6) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
10 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

11 (7) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
12 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

13 (8) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
14 Education Committee of the Senate.

15 (9) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
16 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

17 (g) Publication and effective date.--The department shall
18 submit a notice containing the performance-based funding
19 formulas to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in
20 the next available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin. The
21 performance-based funding formulas shall become effective on the
22 date specified in the notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

23 (h) Periodic review.--The board shall review and revise, if
24 necessary, the performance-based funding formulas every five
25 years. The review process shall include consultation and input
26 from public institutions of higher education. If the board
27 adopts changes to the performance-based funding formulas, the
28 board shall transmit a notice containing the updated
29 performance-based funding formulas to the Legislative Reference
30 Bureau for publication in the next available issue of the

1 Pennsylvania Bulletin. The changes to the performance-based
2 funding formulas shall become effective on the date specified in
3 the notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

4 (i) Annual distribution.--

5 (1) Beginning in the fiscal year in which a performance-
6 based funding formula for State-owned universities or
7 community colleges becomes effective under subsection (g),
8 the department shall annually distribute performance-based
9 funding to each State-owned university or community college
10 which shall consist of the following:

11 (i) An amount equal to the State-owned university or
12 community college's allocation for the 2024-2025 fiscal
13 year under section 2031-L.

14 (ii) An additional amount to be calculated pursuant
15 to the performance-based funding formula under subsection
16 (c) or (d).

17 (2) For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, funding to the State
18 System of Higher Education and its institutions and community
19 colleges shall be distributed under section 2031-L(b) and
20 (c).

21 (3) Beginning in the fiscal year in which a performance-
22 based funding formula for State-related universities becomes
23 effective under subsection (g), the department shall annually
24 distribute performance-based funding to each State-related
25 university under section 2032-L which shall consist of the
26 following:

27 (i) An amount equal to the State-related
28 university's allocation for the 2024-2025 fiscal year
29 under section 2031-L.

30 (ii) An additional amount to be calculated pursuant

1 to the performance-based funding formula under subsection
2 (e).

3 (4) For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the department shall
4 distribute performance-based funding to State-related
5 universities under section 2031-L(d).

6 (j) Exemption.--The performance-based funding formulas
7 developed under this section shall not be subject to:

8 (1) Sections 201, 202, 203, 204 and 205 of the act of
9 July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the
10 Commonwealth Documents Law.

11 (2) Sections 204(b) and 301(10) of the act of October
12 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth
13 Attorneys Act.

14 (3) The act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as
15 the Regulatory Review Act.

16 (k) Data.--The data used to calculate the formulas in this
17 section shall be based on the most recent years for which data
18 is available as determined by the department and be fixed as of
19 the first day of June preceding the fiscal year in which the
20 allocation occurs. Data fixed on the first day of June shall be
21 revised by the department if it is subsequently found to be
22 incorrect.

23 Section 2031-L. Interim funding for public institutions of
24 higher education.

25 (a) General rule.--For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, public
26 institutions of higher education shall receive funding in
27 accordance with this section.

28 (b) State System of Higher Education funding.--From the
29 appropriation for public college and university funding under
30 the act of (P.L. , No.), known as the General

1 Appropriation Act of 2024, \$673,461,000 shall be appropriated to
2 the State System of Higher Education.

3 (c) Community college funding.--From the appropriation for
4 public college and university funding under the General
5 Appropriation Act of 2024, each community college shall receive
6 an amount equal to the following:

7 (1) An amount equal to the reimbursement for operating
8 costs received in fiscal year 2023-2024 under section 1913-
9 A(b) (1.6) (xviii) (A) and (C).

10 (2) An amount equal to the economic development stipend
11 received in fiscal year 2023-2024 under section 1913-A(b)
12 (1.6) (xviii) (B).

13 (3) For each community college that receives funding
14 under paragraph (1) or (2), an additional amount for
15 operating costs determined for each community college as
16 follows:

17 (i) For a community college established after July
18 1, 2020, \$436,671.

19 (ii) For a community college established before July
20 1, 2020:

21 (A) Multiply the audited full-time equivalent
22 enrollment as verified under section 1913-A(k.1) for
23 the most recent year available for the community
24 college by \$38,809,329.

25 (B) Divide the product in clause (A) by the sum
26 of the audited full-time equivalent enrollment as
27 verified under section 1913-A(k.1) for the most
28 recent year available for community colleges that
29 receive funding under paragraphs (1) and (2)
30 excluding the enrollment of a community college

1 subject to subparagraph (i).

2 (d) State-related university funding.--For the 2024-2025
3 fiscal year, each State-related university shall be eligible to
4 receive a grant under section 2032-L in an amount based on the
5 sum of the following:

6 (1) the amount appropriated to the State-related
7 university for the 2023-2024 fiscal year; and

8 (2) an additional amount determined for each State-
9 related university based on the following:

10 (i) divide the amount appropriated to the State-
11 related university for the 2023-2024 fiscal year by the
12 total amount appropriated to State-related universities
13 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year; and

14 (ii) multiply the amount calculated under
15 subparagraph (i) for each State-related university by the
16 difference in the amount appropriated for grants to
17 State-related universities for the 2024-2025 fiscal year
18 and the total amount appropriated to State-related
19 universities for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

20 Section 2032-L. State-Related University Grant Program.

21 (a) Establishment.--The State-Related University Grant
22 Program is established in the department. Beginning in the 2024-
23 2025 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, the program
24 shall provide funding to State-related universities from the
25 appropriation for grants to State-related universities.

26 (b) Approval process.--The department shall prescribe the
27 form and manner in which a State-related university may apply
28 for funding under this section.

29 (c) Eligible uses.--Funding received by a State-related
30 university shall be used for costs directly related to the

1 provision of instruction for graduate or undergraduate students
2 and costs incurred in providing student-related services and
3 community outreach services consistent with the laws of this
4 Commonwealth.

5 (d) Form of application.--To be eligible to receive funding
6 under this section, a State-related university must submit a
7 plan for the use of the funding to the department.

8 (e) Monthly payment.--Payments shall be made to a State-
9 related university under this section on a monthly basis during
10 the fiscal year.

11 (f) Reporting requirements.--

12 (1) A State-related university that receives funding
13 under this section from the department shall ensure its
14 financial statements are in accordance with:

15 (i) The generally accepted accounting principles as
16 prescribed by the National Association of College and
17 University Business Officers, the American Institute of
18 Certified Public Accountants or their successors or by
19 any other recognized authoritative body.

20 (ii) The "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Budget
21 Instructions for the State System of Higher Education,
22 State-related Universities and Non-State-related Colleges
23 and Universities."

24 (iii) The financial reporting policies and standards
25 promulgated by the Federal Government and by the
26 Commonwealth that apply to the State-related university.

27 (2) The department shall require that a State-related
28 university provide information necessary to develop and
29 implement the performance-based funding formula for State-
30 related universities under section 2033-L.

1 (3) A State-related university shall maintain proper
2 records showing the application of the money received under
3 this section. The State-related university shall provide
4 full, complete and accurate information as may be requested
5 by the department.

6 (4) Upon request, the department shall provide
7 information required under this subsection to the chairperson
8 or minority chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of
9 the Senate or the chairperson or minority chairperson of the
10 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

11 Section 2033-L. Performance-based funding formula reporting.

12 (a) Requirements.--Notwithstanding any other provision of
13 law, for the purposes of developing and implementing a
14 performance-based funding formula, the following information
15 shall be reported to the department by public institutions of
16 higher education:

17 (1) Student enrollment, including in-State and out-of-
18 State students, disaggregated by demographics, enrollment
19 status and degree type and level.

20 (2) Students reaching credit hour thresholds under
21 section 2030-L.

22 (3) Students completing credentials, including
23 credentials aligned to high-priority occupations.

24 (4) Students included in priority populations, including
25 low-income students, underrepresented minority students and
26 academically unprepared students.

27 (5) Any other data required by the department to
28 develop, implement, revise or measure the effectiveness of
29 the funding formulas under section 2030-L.

30 (b) Transmittal.--A public institution of higher education

1 shall report information required under this section to the
2 department in a manner and form prescribed by the department.

3 (c) Submission.--The State System of Higher Education may
4 submit the information required under this section on behalf of
5 the State-owned universities.

6 (d) Exclusion.--The provisions of section 118 shall not
7 apply to any data required under this section.

8 (e) Data sharing.--The department may share data collected
9 under this section with the board.

10 (f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
11 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
12 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Student." An individual who attends an institution of
14 higher education, whether enrolled on a full-time, part-time,
15 degree-seeking, non-degree-seeking, credit or noncredit basis.
16 Section 2034-L. Original jurisdiction.

17 The Pennsylvania Supreme Court shall have exclusive and
18 original jurisdiction to hear a challenge or to render a
19 declaratory judgment concerning this subarticle. The
20 Pennsylvania Supreme Court may take action as the court deems
21 appropriate, consistent with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's
22 retaining jurisdiction over the matter, to find facts or to
23 expedite a final judgment in connection with a challenge or
24 request for declaratory relief.

25 SUBARTICLE D

26 AFFORDABILITY

27 Section 2040-L. Pennsylvania Tuition Assistance Grant Program.

28 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Tuition Assistance
29 Grant Program is established within the agency.

30 (b) Duties.--The agency, in consultation with the

1 department, shall administer the grant program and award grants
2 to eligible students beginning in the 2025-2026 school year and
3 each year thereafter.

4 (c) Application.--No later than 90 days after the effective
5 date of this section, the agency shall develop guidelines,
6 including instructions for how an eligible student may apply for
7 a grant.

8 (d) Administrative fee.--The agency may take no more than 3%
9 of the funding appropriated for the grant program as an
10 administrative fee for direct costs associated with the
11 implementation, administration and servicing of the grant
12 program.

13 Section 2041-L. Eligible grant recipients.

14 (a) Eligibility requirements.--To receive a grant under
15 section 2040-L, an eligible student must:

16 (1) Meet the following requirements of the State Grant
17 Program under the Higher Education Scholarship Law:

18 (i) The domicile requirements.

19 (ii) The high school graduation requirements.

20 (iii) Not have received the maximum number of
21 Pennsylvania State grant awards permitted.

22 (2) Make satisfactory academic progress for Federal
23 student aid purposes.

24 (3) Have an adjusted gross income at or below the median
25 household income for the State as determined by the most
26 recent five-year estimate of the United States Census
27 Bureau's American Community Survey.

28 (4) Be enrolled or will be enrolled in a community
29 college or State-owned university.

30 (b) Additional money.--If the Secretary of the Budget makes

1 a determination that additional money is available for
2 Pennsylvania Tuition Assistance grants that exceeds the needs of
3 the students eligible under subsection (a), the agency shall
4 increase the total annual household income requirement under
5 subsection (a)(3).

6 Section 2042-L. Grant awards.

7 (a) Grant amount.--The agency shall calculate the grant
8 amount for each eligible full-time student so that the eligible
9 full-time student's remaining tuition and fees are no more than
10 \$1,000 per semester after other financial aid is awarded. The
11 agency shall prorate the amount of the award if a student is not
12 a full-time student.

13 (b) Grant calculation.--The grant amount under subsection
14 (a) shall be calculated after Pell Grant, Pennsylvania State
15 grant, institutional aid and private scholarships are applied.

16 (c) Prohibition.--A State-owned university or community
17 college may not reduce a student's institutional financial aid
18 as a result of receiving a grant under this subarticle.

19 Section 2043-L. Annual report.

20 (a) Report.--The agency, in consultation with the
21 department, shall prepare and submit a report to the Governor,
22 the General Assembly, the board and the Secretary of Education
23 no later than December 31 of each year that funding is awarded
24 under the program.

25 (b) Contents.--The report shall include the number of grant
26 recipients, programs of study pursued and graduate rates and
27 award type, disaggregated by institution and student group.

28 Section 2044-L. Pennsylvania State grant supplement.

29 (a) Grant supplement.--Beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal
30 year and each year thereafter, the agency shall use money

1 appropriated for the purpose of this section to provide a
2 Pennsylvania State grant supplement to eligible students.

3 (b) Eligible students.--In order to receive a Pennsylvania
4 State grant supplement, an individual must meet all of the
5 following requirements:

6 (1) Be a recipient of a Pennsylvania State grant.

7 (2) Be enrolled in a State-grant-approved institution of
8 higher education that is also a State-related university,
9 independent institution of higher education or Thaddeus
10 Stevens College of Technology.

11 (3) Have an adjusted gross income at or below the median
12 household income for the State as determined by the most
13 recent five-year estimate of the United States Census
14 Bureau's American Community Survey.

15 (c) Amount.--The Pennsylvania State grant supplement shall
16 be in an amount up to \$1,000. The agency shall prorate the
17 amount of the award if a student is not a full-time student.

18 (d) Limit.--A Pennsylvania State grant supplement may not
19 exceed the student's tuition or fees after all other financial
20 aid has been applied to a student's account.

21 (e) Annual report.--

22 (1) The agency, in consultation with the department,
23 shall prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the
24 General Assembly, the board and the Secretary of Education no
25 later than December 31 of each year that Pennsylvania State
26 grant supplements are awarded.

27 (2) The report shall include the number of Pennsylvania
28 State grant supplement recipients, programs of study pursued
29 and graduation rates and award type, disaggregated by
30 institution and student group.

1 Section 2 8. This act shall take effect ~~immediately~~. AS <--

2 FOLLOWS:

3 (1) THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS SHALL TAKE EFFECT

4 IMMEDIATELY:

5 (I) THE ADDITION OF ARTICLE XX-L OF THE ACT.

6 (II) THIS SECTION.

7 (2) THE ADDITION OF THE DEFINITIONS OF "MANDATORY FEE"
8 AND "ONLINE STUDENT PORTAL" IN SECTION 2001-H AND SECTION
9 2004-H OF THE ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT JULY 1, 2024, OR
10 IMMEDIATELY, WHICHEVER IS LATER.

11 (3) THE REMAINDER OF THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60
12 DAYS.