

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 512 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, BISHOP, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, COHEN, D. COSTA, DONATUCCI, EMRICK, FRANKEL, GAINNEY, GIBBONS, GROVE, HARHAI, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, McNEILL, MURT, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, C. PARKER, RAVENSTAHL, SCHWEYER, TALLMAN, THOMAS, TRUITT, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

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 transfers of credits between
6 institutions of higher education, further providing for
7 definitions, for duties of public institutions of higher
8 education and for transfer and articulation oversight
9 committee.

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

12 Section 1. Section 2001-C of the act of March 10, 1949
13 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
14 amended by adding definitions to read:

15 Section 2001-C. 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 "Advanced Placement program (AP)." A program authorized by

1 the college board that allows a student to study college-level
2 subjects while enrolled in high school and to receive advanced
3 placement and college credit for earning a qualified score on
4 the course-related Advanced Placement exam.

5 * * *

6 "College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)." A set of
7 standardized tests developed by the college board for various
8 subjects, and on which a qualifying score can be used to earn
9 college credit.

10 * * *

11 "Credit for prior learning." College-level credit granted
12 toward the award of a postsecondary degree or certificate for
13 experiential learning that can be demonstrated through various
14 means of assessment to be the equivalent of learning gained
15 through formal collegiate instruction, including an Advanced
16 Placement exam, International Baccalaureate exam and a College-
17 Level Examination Program exam.

18 * * *

19 "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB)." An
20 academically challenging two-year pre-college diploma program
21 comprised of three core requirements and six academic subject
22 areas with final examinations that prepare students, 16 to 19
23 years of age, for higher education and life in a global society.

24 * * *

25 Section 2. Section 2002-C of the act is amended by adding a
26 subsection to read:

27 Section 2002-C. Duties of public institutions of higher
28 education.

29 * * *

30 (d) Credit for prior learning.--Each public institution of

1 higher education shall do all of the following:

2 (1) Adopt and make public uniform standards for
3 determining academic credit for prior learning as outlined in
4 paragraph (4) no later than July 1, 2016.

5 (2) Agree to award academic credit for prior learning,
6 which is determined to meet the standards established under
7 section 2004-C(c)(6) and apply the credit toward graduation,
8 unless prohibited by external accreditation or licensure.

9 (3) Submit to the department interim reports outlining
10 the actions that a public institution of higher education has
11 undertaken or intends to undertake to comply with paragraphs
12 (1) and (2).

13 (4) As a member of the Transfer and Articulation
14 Oversight Committee established in section 2004-C:

15 (i) Consult with the department on a process and
16 timeline, subject to approval by the department, to
17 develop uniform standards for determining academic credit
18 for prior learning, in consultation with faculty and
19 personnel.

20 (ii) Develop and implement uniform standards for
21 determining academic credit for prior learning, in
22 consultation with faculty and personnel.

23 (iii) Participate in submitting a status report to
24 the department, the Education Committee of the Senate and
25 the Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

26 (5) For each academic year, report to the department all
27 of the following:

28 (i) The total number of students awarded credits for
29 Advanced Placement Program, International Baccalaureate
30 Diploma Program and College-Level Examination Program

1 exams, if available.

2 (ii) The total number of credits awarded to students
3 for Advanced Placement Program, International
4 Baccalaureate Diploma Program and College-Level
5 Examination Program exams, if available.

6 (iii) The number of credits awarded to matriculating
7 students who present Advanced Placement Program,
8 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and College-
9 Level Examination Program exams that meet the standards
10 established under section 2004-C(c)(6) and, of those
11 credits, the number of credits applied toward major
12 requirements and the number of credits applied toward
13 elective requirements.

14 (iv) Any other information related to awarding of
15 credit for prior learning as requested by the department
16 or the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee,
17 including the usability of transfer credits.

18 Section 3. Section 2004-C(c) of the act is amended by adding
19 a paragraph to read:

20 Section 2004-C. Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.

21 * * *

22 (c) Duties of Transfer and Articulation Oversight
23 Committee.--The committee shall:

24 * * *

25 (6) Within one year of the effective date of this
26 paragraph, develop and implement uniform standards for
27 awarding academic credit for prior learning, in consultation
28 with faculty and personnel for public institutions of higher
29 education and institutions that elect to participate under
30 section 2006-C.

1 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.