

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 770 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD, HUGHES, L. WILLIAMS, SCHWANK, COMITTA,
 FONTANA, STREET, COSTA, KANE, KEARNEY, BREWSTER AND MUTH,
 JUNE 21, 2021

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 21, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), entitled
 2 "An act relating to the finances of the State government;
 3 providing for cancer control, prevention and research, for
 4 ambulatory surgical center data collection, for the Joint
 5 Underwriting Association, for entertainment business
 6 financial management firms, for private dam financial
 7 assurance and for reinstatement of item vetoes; providing for
 8 the settlement, assessment, collection, and lien of taxes,
 9 bonus, and all other accounts due the Commonwealth, the
 10 collection and recovery of fees and other money or property
 11 due or belonging to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
 12 including escheated property and the proceeds of its sale,
 13 the custody and disbursement or other disposition of funds
 14 and securities belonging to or in the possession of the
 15 Commonwealth, and the settlement of claims against the
 16 Commonwealth, the resettlement of accounts and appeals to the
 17 courts, refunds of moneys erroneously paid to the
 18 Commonwealth, auditing the accounts of the Commonwealth and
 19 all agencies thereof, of all public officers collecting
 20 moneys payable to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,
 21 and all receipts of appropriations from the Commonwealth,
 22 authorizing the Commonwealth to issue tax anticipation notes
 23 to defray current expenses, implementing the provisions of
 24 section 7(a) of Article VIII of the Constitution of
 25 Pennsylvania authorizing and restricting the incurring of
 26 certain debt and imposing penalties; affecting every
 27 department, board, commission, and officer of the State
 28 government, every political subdivision of the State, and
 29 certain officers of such subdivisions, every person,
 30 association, and corporation required to pay, assess, or
 31 collect taxes, or to make returns or reports under the laws
 32 imposing taxes for State purposes, or to pay license fees or
 33 other moneys to the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof,

1 every State depository and every debtor or creditor of the
2 Commonwealth," in general budget implementation, further
3 providing for State System of Higher Education.

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

6 Section 1. Section 1737-E of the act of April 9, 1929
7 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, is amended to read:
8 Section 1737-E. State System of Higher Education [(Reserved)].

9 (a) Appropriation.--Subject to subsection (d), no later than
10 July 1, 2021, the sum of \$9,000,000 is appropriated from the
11 General Fund to the State System of Higher Education in
12 accordance with subsections (b) and (c).

13 (b) Use of funds.--The following shall apply to the money
14 appropriated under subsection (a):

15 (1) Not less than \$2,000,000 shall be used by the State
16 System of Higher Education to develop programs that support
17 the recruitment of, provide mentorship for and support
18 underrepresented minority faculty and underrepresented
19 minority student populations with student-facing and
20 leadership roles within the State System of Higher Education.

21 (2) Not less than \$2,500,000 shall be used by the State
22 System of Higher Education to support the educational
23 progress of underrepresented minority student populations by
24 diversifying the general education curriculum and redesigning
25 key general education courses. Progress of underrepresented
26 minority student populations shall be analyzed using metrics,
27 including those approved by the Board of Governors of the
28 State System of Higher Education.

29 (3) Not less than \$2,500,000 shall be used by the State
30 System of Higher Education to support the educational
31 progress of underrepresented minority student populations by

1 providing professional development support for faculty with a
2 focus on instructional and other practices that demonstrably
3 improve outcomes for underrepresented minority student
4 populations. Progress of underrepresented minority student
5 populations shall be analyzed using metrics, including those
6 approved by the Board of Governors of the State System of
7 Higher Education.

8 (4) Not less than \$2,000,000 shall be used by the State
9 System of Higher Education to significantly improve campus
10 climates for underrepresented minority student populations
11 through support of their educational progress and support and
12 training of members of university-based community response
13 teams that are assembled to address reported incidents of
14 bias and discrimination. Improving campus climates shall
15 include the effective use of restorative justice, student
16 codes of conduct, general community education and awareness
17 raising and shall build on a review conducted by an expert
18 group of legal and regulatory frameworks focusing on the
19 First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and
20 Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352,
21 78 Stat. 241, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.).

22 (c) Additional restrictions.--The State System of Higher
23 Education shall ensure that each program or support specified in
24 subsection (b) shall be:

25 (1) grounded in research and evidence-based;
26 (2) have clear and measurable goals, including
27 milestones and deliverables against which progress can be
28 evaluated; and

29 (3) managed at the university level according to a
30 common framework that shall be developed by the universities

1 working in partnership and supported by the Office of the
2 Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education.

3 (d) Expenditure deadline.--The appropriation under paragraph
4 (a) shall not lapse. The State System of Higher Education shall
5 use the funding by no later than July 1, 2026, to support
6 diversity, equity and inclusion programs in accordance with the
7 requirements of subsections (b) and (c).

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.