

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## SENATE BILL

No. 820 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, PICCOLA, FONTANA, MELLOW, GREENLEAF,  
EICHELBERGER, O'PAKE, WASHINGTON, WILLIAMS AND ALLOWAY,  
APRIL 27, 2009

SENATOR PICCOLA, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, JUNE 23, 2009

## 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," further providing for duties of  
6 public institutions of higher education, for the Transfer and  
7 Articulation Oversight Committee and for participation by  
8 independent institutions of higher education ~~or~~ AND FOR  
9 PARTICIPATION BY State-related ~~institution~~ INSTITUTIONS. ←  
←

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

12 Section 1. Section 2002-C of the act of March 10, 1949  
13 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added  
14 July 11, 2006 (P.L.1092, No.114), is amended to read:

15 Section 2002-C. Duties of public institutions of higher  
16 education.

17 (a) Completion.--Each public institution of higher education  
18 shall complete all of the following by June 30, 2008:

19 (1) Participate in the development and implementation of  
20 equivalency standards pursuant to section 2004-C(c)(1).

21 (2) Establish and maintain records and data detailing

1 the credits transferred to and received from other public  
2 institutions of higher education as the department may  
3 prescribe.

4 (3) Make any reasonable changes and modifications to its  
5 foundation courses, including the strengthening of the  
6 courses, to ensure equivalency of those credits among the  
7 public institutions of higher education, as recommended by  
8 the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.

9 (4) Agree to accept for transfer foundation courses  
10 determined to meet equivalency standards under section  
11 2004-C(c) (2) .

12 (a.1) Completion of second phase.--Each public institution  
13 of higher education shall agree to accept for transfer courses ←  
14 that qualify under section 2004 C(c) (2.2) by June 30, 2011 WITH ←  
15 FULL JUNIOR STANDING THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND ASSOCIATE OF  
16 SCIENCE DEGREES INTO A PARALLEL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM AS  
17 OUTLINED IN SECTION 2004-C(C) (2.1), (2.2), (2.3) AND (2.4) BY  
18 THE TIMELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION  
19 SUBCOMMITTEE, BUT NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2011. FOR THE  
20 PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND ASSOCIATE OF  
21 SCIENCE DEGREES ARE DEGREES DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR TRANSFER TO  
22 BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTION AND MUST CONTAIN A MINIMUM OF 60  
23 CREDITS.

24 (b) Reporting requirements.--

25 (1) A public institution of higher education shall  
26 submit to the department a series of interim reports  
27 outlining the actions that the public institution of higher  
28 education has undertaken or intends to undertake to comply  
29 with subsection (a), which shall be filed December 31, 2006,  
30 June 30, 2007, and December 31, 2007.

1       (2) A public institution of higher education shall  
2       submit to the department interim reports outlining the  
3       actions that the public institution of higher education has  
4       undertaken or intends to undertake to comply with subsection  
5       (a.1), which shall be filed by December 31, 2009, June 30,  
6       2010, and December 31, 2010.

7       Section 2. Section 2004-C(c) of the act is amended by adding  
8 paragraphs to read:

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

10       \* \* \*

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

13       \* \* \*

14       ~~(2.1) Within 120 days of the effective date of this~~ ←  
15       ~~section, consult with the department on a process, subject to~~  
16       ~~approval by the department, to identify 30 additional credit~~  
17       ~~hours to be counted toward graduation requirements of the~~  
18       ~~baccalaureate degree in all public institutions of higher~~  
19       ~~education and to develop academic clusters in consultation~~  
20       ~~with faculty and personnel where credit for courses may count~~  
21       ~~toward the graduation requirements in each major identified~~  
22       ~~in the cluster.~~

23       ~~(2.2) No later than June 30, 2010, in consultation with~~  
24       ~~faculty and personnel, determine equivalent courses for an~~  
25       ~~additional 30 credit hours that will count toward~~  
26       ~~baccalaureate graduation requirements in all public~~  
27       ~~institutions of higher education. The credit hours shall not~~  
28       ~~include developmental or remedial courses or career,~~  
29       ~~technical or applied courses except if those courses are~~  
30       ~~designed to meet competencies of specific program~~

accreditation, licensing or approval standards.

(2.1) BY DECEMBER 1, 2009, CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT  
ON A PROCESS AND TIMELINE, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE  
DEPARTMENT, TO IDENTIFY THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND ASSOCIATE  
OF SCIENCE DEGREES ALIGNED WITH THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
OF THE PARALLEL BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN ALL PUBLIC  
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN CONSULTATION WITH FACULTY  
AND PERSONNEL.

(2.2) IDENTIFY ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND ASSOCIATE OF  
SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMS FOR TRANSFER WITH FULL JUNIOR  
STANDING INTO A PARALLEL BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN CONSULTATION  
WITH FACULTY AND PERSONNEL IN THOSE DEGREE PROGRAMS BY  
DECEMBER 31, 2011.

(2.3) IDENTITY MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED IN  
EXISTING ASSOCIATE OR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES TO SATISFY  
EXTERNAL ACCREDITATION OR LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS IN  
CONSULTATION WITH FACULTY AND PERSONNEL. APPROVED  
MODIFICATIONS MUST RECOGNIZE ALL COMPETENCIES ATTAINED WITHIN  
EITHER THE ASSOCIATE OR BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS.

(2.4) DEFINE REQUIREMENTS, IN CONSULTATION WITH FACULTY  
AND PERSONNEL, FOR EDUCATION DEGREES, INCLUDING EARLY  
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEGREES, LEADING TO CERTIFICATION TO BE  
INCLUDED IN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND BE ACCEPTED FOR TRANSFER  
WITH FULL JUNIOR STANDING INTO A PARALLEL BACCALAUREATE  
DEGREE PROGRAM.

\* \* \*

Section 3. Section 2006-C of the act, added July 11, 2006  
(P.L.1092, No.114), is amended to read:

Section 2006-C. Participation by independent institutions of  
higher education [or State-related institution].

1     (a) Participation by independent institutions.--An  
2     independent institution of higher education [or a State-related  
3     institution] may elect to participate through the adoption of  
4     equivalency standards as provided for in subsection 2004-C(c)(1)  
5     and by agreement to accept for transfer courses DEGREES that  
6     qualify under section 2004-C(c)(2.2) by its governing body.

7     (b) Election to participate.--An independent institution of  
8     higher education that elects to participate under subsection (a)  
9     shall be subject to all of the requirements of this act.

10    ~~(c) Participation by State related institutions. State~~  
11    ~~related institutions shall be subject to all of the requirements~~  
12    ~~of this act. State related institutions not participating under~~  
13    ~~subsection (a) on the effective date of this subsection shall~~  
14    ~~have until June 30, 2011, to meet the requirements of section~~  
15    ~~2004-C(c)(1) and until June 30, 2012, to meet the requirements~~  
16    ~~of section 2004-C(c)(2.2).~~

17     SECTION 4. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:  
18     SECTION 2006.1-C. PARTICIPATION BY STATE-RELATED INSTITUTIONS.

19     (A) AGREEMENT.--NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2010, EACH STATE-  
20     RELATED INSTITUTION SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO  
21     THE TRANSFER OF CREDITS AMONG INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
22     WITH THE DEPARTMENT ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE INSTITUTIONS SUBJECT  
23     TO THIS ARTICLE.

24     (B) ACCEPTANCE.--SUCH AGREEMENT SHALL REQUIRE THE ACCEPTANCE  
25     OF UP TO 30 CREDIT HOURS FROM A STUDENT ACCEPTED FOR TRANSFER,  
26     AND MAY ALLOW FOR THE STATE-RELATED INSTITUTION TO ACCEPT MORE  
27     THAN 30 CREDIT HOURS.

28     (C) POSTING.--EACH STATE-RELATED INSTITUTION SHALL POST SUCH  
29     AGREEMENT ON ITS PUBLIC WEBSITE AND MAKE SUCH INFORMATION  
30     AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR POSTING ON ITS PUBLIC WORLD WIDE

1 WEBSITE.

2 (D) CONSTRUCTION.--NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO  
3 INFRINGE ON THE STATE-RELATED INSTITUTION'S SOLE AUTHORITY TO DO  
4 THE FOLLOWING:

5 (1) ACCEPT A STUDENT FOR TRANSFER.

6 (2) DETERMINE ACCEPTANCE INTO A MAJOR.

7 (3) DETERMINE THE CAMPUS ASSIGNMENT OF SUCH STUDENT.

8 (4) DETERMINE HOW MANY AND WHICH CREDIT HOURS SHALL  
9 APPLY FOR THE TRANSFER STUDENT TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF  
10 DEGREE REQUIREMENTS.

11 (E) CREDIT INCREASE.--NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL PROHIBIT A  
12 STATE-RELATED INSTITUTION'S ABILITY TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS  
13 WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CREDITS SUBJECT TO  
14 THE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (A).

15 Section ~~4~~ 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, or  
16 immediately, whichever is later.

