

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1000 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY SCARNATI, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF, WAUGH, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH, BAKER, WHITE, GORDNER, VOGEL, STACK, YUDICHAK, BREWSTER, COSTA, BRUBAKER AND DINNIMAN, JUNE 28, 2013

SENATOR FOLMER, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, DECEMBER 11, 2013

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," providing for rural regional
6 community college pilot program for underserved counties. <--

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

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

ARTICLE XIX-G

RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PILOT PROGRAM FOR UNDERSERVED COUNTIES <--

15 ~~Section 1901 G. Scope of article.~~ <--

16 ~~This article provides for a pilot program to establish a
17 rural regional community college in an 11 county rural area that
18 is underserved by comprehensive community college education and
19 work force development.~~

20 ~~Section 1902 G. Definitions.~~

1 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this article~~
2 ~~shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~
3 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

4 ~~"Annual." A 12 month period coterminous with the~~
5 ~~Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30.~~

6 ~~"Board of trustees." The board of trustees of a rural~~
7 ~~regional community college established under this article.~~

8 ~~"County." Any county in this Commonwealth.~~

9 ~~"Certified public accountant." A member of the American~~
10 ~~Institute of Certified Public Accountants who has a minimum of~~
11 ~~five years' verifiable experience in performing audits of~~
12 ~~government funds for nonprofit organizations with a comparable~~
13 ~~or larger annual budget.~~

14 ~~"Rural regional community college" or "regional rural~~
15 ~~school." A public institution which is established in a rural~~
16 ~~area and operated in accordance with the provisions of this~~
17 ~~article as a nonprofit organization which provides up to a two~~
18 ~~year, postsecondary education not to exceed the level of an~~
19 ~~associate of arts or sciences degree and which is active in work~~
20 ~~force development.~~

21 ~~"Rural regional school plan" or "plan." A plan for the~~
22 ~~establishment and operation of a regional rural school under~~
23 ~~this article.~~

24 ~~"Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth~~
25 ~~or such person as the secretary may designate to act on behalf~~
26 ~~of the secretary with regard to any of the duties and~~
27 ~~prerogatives imposed by this article.~~

28 ~~"State Board." The State Board of Education.~~
29 ~~Section 1903 G. Designation; pilot program and future rural~~
30 ~~regional community colleges.~~

~~The secretary, within 30 days of the effective date of this article, shall work with an established nonprofit organization as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)) representing a rural multicounty region which is underserved by a comprehensive community college program, including work force development. The Education Consortium of the Upper Allegheny represents an 11 county area and is designated under this section.~~

~~Section 1904 G. Designation; board of trustees.~~

~~Within 60 days of the secretary's designation under section 1903 G, a board of trustees shall be appointed to establish the rural regional school required under this article. The board of trustees shall consist of not less than seven members nor more than 11 members appointed by the secretary who are representative of the area designated jointly by the secretary and the nonprofit organization under section 1903 G. The following shall apply to the board of trustees established under this section:~~

~~(1) Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed for terms of three years each, except that those persons initially appointed shall draw lots to determine which trustees shall serve for a term of three years, which trustees shall serve for a term of two years and which trustees shall serve for a term of one year. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for terms of three years each.~~

~~(2) Vacancies on the board shall be filled by the existing board. A trustee may succeed himself, provided that no member shall serve for longer than ten years.~~

~~(3) The secretary shall convene an initial meeting of~~

~~the board of trustees within 90 days of the secretary's designation under this section. After the initial meeting, the board of trustees shall meet at such times each year as the board of trustees determines to be necessary to satisfy the requirements of this article.~~

~~(4) The board of trustees shall adopt standing operating rules and procedures.~~

~~(5) The board of trustees shall choose from among its members a chairman, vice chairman and secretary.~~

~~(6) A majority of the members of the board of trustees shall constitute a quorum.~~

~~(7) Trustees shall serve without compensation, except that they shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.~~

~~Section 1905 G. Establishment.~~

~~(a) General rule. Within one year of the effective date of this article, the board of trustees appointed under section 1904 G shall submit to the secretary a proposed regional rural school plan in such form and containing such information as the secretary may require. In addition to other information which may be required by the secretary, the plan shall include the following:~~

~~(1) A designation of the name of the proposed regional technical school, which shall be the "Regional Community College of _____" or "_____ Regional Community College."~~

~~(2) A survey of the vocational and occupational needs of the area and the means by which the proposed regional rural school will meet those needs, reduce unemployment and improve the employable skills of residents of the area to be served~~

1 ~~by the regional rural school.~~

2 ~~(3) An operating and financial plan for the proposed~~
3 ~~regional rural school, including a plan for the capital needs~~
4 ~~and expenses of the proposed regional rural school.~~

5 ~~(4) A plan by which the regional rural school shall seek~~
6 ~~accreditation by an accrediting association which is~~
7 ~~recognized by the United States Department of Education.~~

8 ~~(b) Submission of plan. Within 30 days of the submission of~~
9 ~~the regional rural school plan to the secretary, the secretary~~
10 ~~shall issue an approval or rejection of the plan. A rejection of~~
11 ~~the plan shall be accompanied by a written statement of the~~
12 ~~reasons for the rejection of the plan. If the plan is rejected,~~
13 ~~the board of trustees shall submit a revised plan to the~~
14 ~~secretary within 60 days of the plan's rejection.~~

15 ~~(c) Plan approval. Upon the approval of the plan by the~~
16 ~~secretary, the regional rural school shall be considered~~
17 ~~established.~~

18 ~~Section 1906 G. Powers and duties of board of trustees.~~

19 ~~(a) General rule. The board of trustees appointed under~~
20 ~~section 1904 G shall administer and supervise the affairs of any~~
21 ~~regional rural school established under this article. Subject to~~
22 ~~any other law and to any regulations promulgated by the State~~
23 ~~Board pertaining to regional rural schools, the board of~~
24 ~~trustees shall have the following powers and duties:~~

25 ~~(1) To appoint and fix the salary of a president of the~~
26 ~~regional rural school.~~

27 ~~(2) To appoint and fix the salary of a treasurer of the~~
28 ~~regional rural school.~~

29 ~~(3) To hold, rent, lease, sell, purchase and improve~~
30 ~~land, buildings, furnishings, equipment, materials, books and~~

1 ~~supplies.~~

2 ~~(4) To enter into contracts for services with schools,~~
3 ~~colleges or universities, or with school districts or~~
4 ~~municipalities, to effectuate the purposes of this article.~~

5 ~~(5) To accept and receive gifts of real and personal~~
6 ~~property and Federal, State and local moneys and grants, and~~
7 ~~to expend the same.~~

8 ~~(6) To make policies providing for the admission and~~
9 ~~expulsion of students, the courses of instruction, the~~
10 ~~tuition and fees to be charged and for all matters related to~~
11 ~~the government and administration of the regional rural~~
12 ~~school, provided that policies related to admission, tuition~~
13 ~~and fees give preference to residents of the 11 county area~~
14 ~~designated by the secretary pursuant to section 1903 G.~~

15 ~~(7) To submit to the secretary for approval proposed~~
16 ~~amendments to the regional rural school plan.~~

17 ~~(8) To enter into contracts for services to high schools~~
18 ~~located in the area designated by the secretary under section~~
19 ~~1903 G to provide area vocational technical education~~
20 ~~services.~~

21 ~~(9) To submit an annual budget to the secretary for~~
22 ~~consideration and approval.~~

23 ~~(10) To exercise such other powers and perform such~~
24 ~~other duties as are necessary to effectuate the purposes of~~
25 ~~this article.~~

26 ~~(b) Duties of board. The board of trustees shall enter into~~
27 ~~contracts, hold property and take other actions in the name of~~
28 ~~the regional school.~~

29 ~~Section 1907 G. Officers of regional rural school.~~

30 ~~(a) President. The president shall be the chief executive~~

~~1 and administrative officer of the regional rural school and
2 shall perform all duties which the board of trustees may
3 prescribe. The president shall have the right to attend meetings
4 of the board of trustees and to be heard on all matters before
5 it, but shall have no right to vote on any matter.~~

~~6 (b) Treasurer. The treasurer of the regional rural school
7 shall give a proper bond in such amount and with such corporate
8 surety as is approved by the board of trustees. The treasurer
9 shall file the bond with the board of trustees. The account of
10 the treasurer shall be audited annually by a certified public
11 accountant or other qualified public accountant selected by the
12 board of trustees.~~

~~13 Section 1908 G. Students.~~

~~14 Any individual may apply for admission to the regional rural
15 school established under this article, provided that preference
16 in admissions, tuition and fees may be given to residents of the
17 multicounty area designated by the secretary pursuant to section
18 1903 G. In considering applicants for admission, the regional
19 rural school shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color,
20 gender, marital status, ethnic group or religion.~~

~~21 Section 1909 G. Tuition.~~

~~22 The tuition charged by each regional rural school shall be an
23 amount determined by the board of trustees of the regional rural
24 school, in accordance with the budget approved by the secretary
25 and with regulations of the State Board. The board of trustees
26 shall determine the amount of tuition which will not exceed the
27 Pennsylvania in resident community college average.~~

~~28 Section 1910 G. Dissolution of regional rural school.~~

~~29 No regional rural school established under this article shall
30 be dissolved without the approval of the secretary. Upon~~

~~1 dissolution of the regional rural school, the Commonwealth shall
2 assume all assets and liabilities of the regional rural school.~~

~~3 Section 1911 G. Degrees.~~

~~4 A regional rural school established under this article may
5 award any type of diploma, technical or career training
6 certificate or degree not to exceed the level of an associate of
7 arts or sciences degree.~~

~~8 Section 1912 G. Funding.~~

~~9 A regional rural school established under this article shall
10 be funded by an appropriation by the General Assembly, grants
11 from the Federal Government, grants from the Commonwealth,
12 grants from private foundations or any combination thereof.~~

~~13 Section 1913 G. Financial aid.~~

~~14 Students enrolled in a regional rural school established
15 under this article shall be eligible for financial aid to the
16 extent permitted under Federal and State law.~~

~~17 Section 1914 G. Regulations.~~

~~18 The State Board may promulgate final omitted regulations
19 pursuant to the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as
20 the Regulatory Review Act, as necessary to implement this
21 article.~~

~~22 Section 1915 G. Reports.~~

~~23 The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall prepare
24 and submit to the General Assembly written interim and final
25 reports evaluating the operation of this article. The interim
26 report shall be submitted by June 30, 2018, and the final report
27 shall be submitted by June 30, 2022. Each report shall include,
28 but may not be limited to, the following:~~

~~29 (1) A review of the success of the regional rural school
30 established under this article in satisfying the goals set~~

~~forth in the regional rural school plan approved by the secretary and in satisfying the needs of the multicounty area the rural technical school was established to serve.~~

~~(2) Demographic and program data, including the following:~~

~~(i) Numbers of full time and part time faculty and student enrollments, in total and within curricular areas.~~

~~(ii) Dual enrollment participation.~~

~~(iii) Credit hours taught by faculty.~~

~~(iv) Distance learning courses offered.~~

~~(v) Articulation agreements with higher education institutions.~~

~~(vi) Lists of courses with fewer than 20 students.~~

~~(vii) Lists of courses with more than 50 students.~~

~~Where available, student data shall be disaggregated by categories, including gender, race and age.~~

~~(3) Student progress and achievement measures, including the following:~~

~~(i) Retention rates.~~

~~(ii) Graduation rates after two, three and four years.~~

~~(iii) Passing rates on certification and licensure examinations.~~

~~(iv) Number of students employed within one year of program completion.~~

~~(v) Placement into additional education or employment in the student's field of study.~~

~~Where available, data shall be disaggregated by categories, including gender, race and age.~~

1 ~~(4) Economic and work force development measures,~~

2 ~~including:~~

3 ~~(i) Employer satisfaction.~~

4 ~~(ii) Customized job training offerings.~~

5 ~~(iii) Employment status.~~

6 ~~(iv) Numbers of businesses and organizations served.~~

7 ~~(5) Recommendations for future legislation.~~

8 ~~Section 1916 G. Expiration.~~

9 ~~This article shall expire June 30, 2023, unless reenacted~~
10 ~~prior to that date.~~

11 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~

12 ~~SECTION 1901-G. SCOPE OF ARTICLE.~~

<--

13 ~~THIS ARTICLE PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RURAL~~
14 ~~REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN A MULTICOUNTY RURAL AREA THAT IS~~
15 ~~UNDERSERVED BY COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION AND~~
16 ~~WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT.~~

17 ~~SECTION 1902-G. DEFINITIONS.~~

18 ~~THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE~~
19 ~~SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE~~
20 ~~CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:~~

21 ~~"ANNUAL." A 12-MONTH PERIOD COTERMINOUS WITH THE~~
22 ~~COMMONWEALTH'S FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1 AND ENDING JUNE 30.~~

23 ~~"BOARD OF TRUSTEES." THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF A RURAL~~
24 ~~REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.~~

25 ~~"COUNTY." ANY COUNTY IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.~~

26 ~~"CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT." A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN~~
27 ~~INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS WHO HAS A MINIMUM OF~~
28 ~~FIVE YEARS' VERIFIABLE EXPERIENCE IN PERFORMING AUDITS OF~~
29 ~~GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WITH A COMPARABLE~~
30 ~~OR LARGER ANNUAL BUDGET.~~

1 "RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE." A PUBLIC INSTITUTION
2 WHICH IS ESTABLISHED IN A RURAL AREA AND OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE
3 WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE AS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
4 WHICH PROVIDES UP TO A TWO-YEAR, POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION NOT TO
5 EXCEED THE LEVEL OF AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR SCIENCES DEGREE AND
6 WHICH IS ACTIVE IN WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT.

7 "RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE PLAN" OR "PLAN." A PLAN
8 FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A RURAL REGIONAL
9 COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

10 "SECRETARY." THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
11 OR SUCH PERSON AS THE SECRETARY MAY DESIGNATE TO ACT ON BEHALF
12 OF THE SECRETARY WITH REGARD TO ANY OF THE DUTIES AND
13 PREROGATIVES IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE.

14 "STATE BOARD." THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.
15 SECTION 1903-G. DESIGNATIONS BY THE SECRETARY.

16 (A) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.--

17 (1) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
18 SECTION, THE SECRETARY SHALL DESIGNATE AN ESTABLISHED
19 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 501(C)(3) OF
20 THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 (PUBLIC LAW 99-514, 26
21 U.S.C. § 501(C)(3)), WHICH ORGANIZATION REPRESENTS A RURAL
22 MULTICOUNTY REGION UNDERSERVED BY A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY
23 COLLEGE PROGRAM, INCLUDING WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT, TO ASSIST
24 THE SECRETARY WITH THE DESIGNATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (2).

25 (2) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DESIGNATION UNDER PARAGRAPH
26 (1), THE SECRETARY SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE NONPROFIT
27 ORGANIZATION, DESIGNATE CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES OR PARTS OF
28 CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES TO BE SERVED BY ESTABLISHMENT OF A RURAL
29 REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

30 (B) CHANGES.--NO SOONER THAN FOUR YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE

1 DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE SECRETARY, WITH APPROVAL OF THE BOARD
2 OF TRUSTEES, MAY ADD COUNTIES OR PARTS OF COUNTIES TO BE SERVED
3 BY THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

4 SECTION 1904-G. DESIGNATION; BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

5 WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNATION UNDER SECTION
6 1903-G(A) (2), A BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL BE APPOINTED TO
7 ESTABLISH A RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE. THE BOARD OF
8 TRUSTEES SHALL CONSIST OF NOT FEWER THAN SEVEN MEMBERS NOR MORE
9 THAN 15 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY IN CONSULTATION AND
10 JOINTLY WITH THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED UNDER SECTION
11 1903-G(A) (1). THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
12 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION:

13 (1) MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL BE
14 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AREA DESIGNATED UNDER SECTION 1903-G(A)
15 (2) AND MAY INCLUDE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, COMMUNITY
16 EDUCATION COUNCIL OFFICIALS, BUSINESS LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT
17 OFFICIALS.

18 (2) MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL BE APPOINTED
19 FOR TERMS OF THREE YEARS EACH, EXCEPT THAT THOSE PERSONS
20 INITIALLY APPOINTED SHALL DRAW LOTS TO DETERMINE WHICH
21 TRUSTEES SHALL SERVE FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, WHICH
22 TRUSTEES SHALL SERVE FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS AND WHICH
23 TRUSTEES SHALL SERVE FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR. THEREAFTER, ALL
24 MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR TERMS OF THREE YEARS EACH.

25 (3) VACANCIES ON THE BOARD SHALL BE FILLED BY THE
26 EXISTING BOARD. A TRUSTEE MAY SUCCEED HIMSELF, PROVIDED THAT
27 NO MEMBER SHALL SERVE FOR LONGER THAN TEN YEARS.

28 (4) THE SECRETARY SHALL CONVENE AN INITIAL MEETING OF
29 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE SECRETARY'S
30 DESIGNATION UNDER THIS SECTION. AFTER THE INITIAL MEETING,

1 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL MEET AT SUCH TIMES EACH YEAR AS
2 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DETERMINES TO BE NECESSARY TO SATISFY
3 THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ARTICLE.

4 (5) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL ADOPT STANDING OPERATING
5 RULES AND PROCEDURES, BY LAWS AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

6 (6) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY
7 COMMITTEE OF PRESIDENTS, OR THEIR DESIGNEE, FROM INSTITUTIONS
8 WITH POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITHIN THE REGION
9 DESIGNATED UNDER SECTION 1903-G(A) (2). THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
10 SHALL MEET QUARTERLY TO DISCUSS EMPLOYER AND WORK FORCE
11 NEEDS, NEW EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS AND GENERAL COORDINATION OF
12 SERVICE AND FACILITIES. ONE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER
13 REPRESENTING A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND ONE ADVISORY COUNCIL
14 MEMBER THAT IS A PRESIDENT OF A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY SHALL
15 SERVE AS CO-CHAIRS.

16 (7) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL CHOOSE FROM AMONG ITS
17 MEMBERS A CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY.

18 (8) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
19 SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

20 (9) TRUSTEES SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION, EXCEPT
21 THAT THEY SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY
22 EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

23 SECTION 1905-G. ESTABLISHMENT.

24 (A) GENERAL RULE.--WITHIN ONE YEAR OF ITS INITIAL MEETING,
25 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTED UNDER SECTION 1904-G SHALL
26 SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY A PROPOSED RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY
27 COLLEGE PLAN IN SUCH FORM AND CONTAINING SUCH INFORMATION AS THE
28 SECRETARY MAY REQUIRE. IN ADDITION TO OTHER INFORMATION WHICH
29 MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE SECRETARY, THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE THE
30 FOLLOWING:

1 (1) A DESIGNATION OF THE NAME OF THE PROPOSED RURAL
2 REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE WHICH SHALL BE THE "REGIONAL
3 COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF _____ " OR "
4 REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE."

5 (2) A SURVEY OF THE EDUCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL AND
6 OCCUPATIONAL NEEDS OF THE AREA AND THE MEANS BY WHICH THE
7 PROPOSED RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE WILL MEET THOSE
8 NEEDS, RE-ENGAGE HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS TO EARN THEIR SECONDARY
9 CREDENTIALS AND POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS OR INDUSTRY
10 CERTIFICATION, REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND IMPROVE THE EMPLOYABLE
11 SKILLS OF RESIDENTS OF THE AREA TO BE SERVED BY THE RURAL
12 REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

13 (3) AN OPERATING AND FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED
14 RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, INCLUDING A PLAN FOR THE
15 CAPITAL NEEDS AND EXPENSES OF THE PROPOSED RURAL REGIONAL
16 COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

17 (4) A PLAN BY WHICH THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
18 SHALL SEEK ACCREDITATION BY AN ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION WHICH
19 IS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

20 (B) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.--WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE SUBMISSION OF
21 THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE PLAN TO THE SECRETARY, THE
22 SECRETARY SHALL ISSUE AN APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF THE PLAN. A
23 REJECTION OF THE PLAN SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A WRITTEN
24 STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE REJECTION OF THE PLAN. IF THE
25 PLAN IS REJECTED, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL SUBMIT A REVISED
26 PLAN TO THE SECRETARY WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE PLAN'S REJECTION.

27 (C) PLAN APPROVAL.--UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE PLAN BY THE
28 SECRETARY, THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL BE
29 CONSIDERED ESTABLISHED.

30 SECTION 1906-G. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

1 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTED UNDER
2 SECTION 1904-G SHALL ADMINISTER AND SUPERVISE THE AFFAIRS OF THE
3 RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.
4 SUBJECT TO ANY OTHER LAW AND TO ANY REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY
5 THE STATE BOARD PERTAINING TO RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES,
6 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING POWERS AND
7 DUTIES:

8 (1) TO ADVANCE THE MISSION OF THE RURAL REGIONAL
9 COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN SERVICE TO RESIDENTS OF THE REGION
10 DESIGNATED UNDER SECTION 1903-G(A)(2).

11 (2) TO APPOINT AND FIX THE SALARY OF A PRESIDENT OF THE
12 RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

13 (3) TO APPOINT AND FIX THE SALARY OF A CHIEF FINANCIAL
14 OFFICER OF THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

15 (4) TO HOLD, RENT, LEASE, SELL, PURCHASE AND IMPROVE
16 LAND, BUILDINGS, FURNISHINGS, EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, BOOKS AND
17 SUPPLIES.

18 (5) TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES WITH COMMUNITY
19 EDUCATION COUNCILS, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES, OR
20 WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR MUNICIPALITIES, AND OTHER APPLICABLE
21 OR APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, TO EFFECTUATE THE
22 PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE.

23 (6) TO ACCEPT AND RECEIVE GIFTS OF REAL AND PERSONAL
24 PROPERTY AND FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL MONEYS, LOANS AND
25 GRANTS, AND TO EXPEND THE SAME.

26 (7) TO MAKE POLICIES PROVIDING FOR THE ADMISSION AND
27 EXPULSION OF STUDENTS, THE COURSES OF INSTRUCTION, THE
28 TUITION AND FEES TO BE CHARGED AND FOR ALL MATTERS RELATED TO
29 THE GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE RURAL REGIONAL
30 COMMUNITY COLLEGE, PROVIDED THAT POLICIES RELATED TO

1 ADMISSION, TUITION AND FEES GIVE PREFERENCE TO RESIDENTS OF
2 THE AREA DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY PURSUANT TO SECTION
3 1903-G(A) (2).

4 (8) TO SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY FOR APPROVAL PROPOSED
5 AMENDMENTS TO THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE PLAN.

6 (9) TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES TO HIGH SCHOOLS
7 LOCATED IN THE AREA DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER SECTION
8 1903-G TO PROVIDE AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION
9 SERVICES.

10 (10) TO APPROVE AN ANNUAL BUDGET TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE
11 SECRETARY FOR FUNDING.

12 (11) TO EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND PERFORM SUCH
13 OTHER DUTIES AS ARE NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF
14 THIS ARTICLE.

15 (B) DUTIES OF BOARD.--THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL ENTER INTO
16 CONTRACTS, HOLD PROPERTY AND TAKE OTHER ACTIONS IN THE NAME OF
17 THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

18 (C) INITIAL PARTNERSHIP.--

19 (1) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL SELECT INITIALLY A
20 MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS A
21 PARTNER INSTITUTION TO DEVELOP AND OFFER ACCREDITED COURSES
22 AND PROGRAMS OF STUDY AT THE APPROVED SITES OF OPERATION.

23 (2) THE PARTNER INSTITUTION SHALL SELECT PROGRAMS IN
24 CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND
25 CONSISTENT WITH ITS ACCREDITATION AND SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE
26 FOR STAFFING AND EVALUATION AND PROVISION OF OTHER SUPPORT
27 SERVICES AS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS.

28 (3) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY CONTRACT WITH OTHER
29 COLLEGES TO PROVIDE CURRICULA NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH THE
30 PARTNER INSTITUTION.

1 (4) AS THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS ABLE TO
2 OPERATE ON ITS OWN, A TRANSITION PLAN AND BUDGET SHALL BE
3 INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT TO EFFICIENTLY EXPEDITE THE
4 TRANSITION FOR ITS PARTNER INSTITUTION OR INSTITUTIONS.

5 (5) NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO
6 PRECLUDE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FROM CONTRACTING FOR SPECIFIC
7 SERVICES OR PROGRAMS FOLLOWING THE TRANSITION FROM THE
8 INITIAL OPERATING PARTNER INSTITUTION.

9 SECTION 1907-G. OFFICERS OF RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

10 (A) PRESIDENT.--THE PRESIDENT SHALL BE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
11 AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY
12 COLLEGE AND SHALL PERFORM ALL DUTIES WHICH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
13 MAY PRESCRIBE. THE PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ATTEND
14 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND TO BE HEARD ON ALL MATTERS
15 BEFORE IT, BUT SHALL HAVE NO RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY MATTER.

16 (B) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.--THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF
17 THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL GIVE A PROPER BOND IN
18 SUCH AMOUNT AND WITH SUCH CORPORATE SURETY AS IS APPROVED BY THE
19 BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER SHALL FILE THE
20 BOND WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THE ACCOUNT OF THE CHIEF
21 FINANCIAL OFFICER SHALL BE AUDITED BIANNUALLY BY A CERTIFIED
22 PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT OR OTHER QUALIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT SELECTED
23 BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

24 SECTION 1908-G. STUDENTS.

25 ANY INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE RURAL REGIONAL
26 COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ARTICLE, PROVIDED THAT
27 PREFERENCE IN ADMISSIONS, TUITION AND FEES MAY BE GIVEN TO
28 RESIDENTS OF THE MULTICOUNTY AREA DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY
29 PURSUANT TO SECTION 1903-G(A) (2). IN CONSIDERING APPLICANTS FOR
30 ADMISSION, THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL NOT

1 DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, GENDER, MARITAL
2 STATUS, ETHNIC GROUP OR RELIGION.

3 SECTION 1909-G. TUITION.

4 THE TUITION AND FEES CHARGED BY THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY
5 COLLEGE SHALL BE AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
6 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY. THE
7 BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL ANNUALLY ESTABLISH A SEPARATE SCHEDULE
8 OF TUITION AND FEES FOR STUDENTS THAT RESIDE INSIDE THE REGION
9 AND STUDENTS THAT RESIDE OUTSIDE THE REGION DESIGNATED UNDER
10 SECTION 1903-G(A) (2).

11 SECTION 1910-G. DISSOLUTION AND TRANSITION OF RURAL REGIONAL
12 COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

13 THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS
14 ARTICLE MAY NOT BE DISSOLVED WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE
15 SECRETARY. UPON DISSOLUTION OF THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY
16 COLLEGE, THE COMMONWEALTH SHALL ASSUME ALL ASSETS AND
17 LIABILITIES OF THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, EXCEPT THAT
18 SUCH ASSETS THAT ARE THE PROPERTY OF ANY PARTNER INSTITUTION
19 THAT MAY BE OPERATING FOR AND WITHIN THE RURAL REGIONAL
20 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE INSTITUTION.

21 SECTION 1911-G. DEGREES.

22 THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS
23 ARTICLE MAY AWARD ANY TYPE OF DIPLOMA, TECHNICAL OR CAREER
24 TRAINING CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE NOT TO EXCEED THE LEVEL OF AN
25 ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR SCIENCES DEGREE. AS LONG AS THE MIDDLE
26 STATES ACCREDITED INSTITUTION PROVIDES THE ACCREDITED CURRICULA
27 AND COURSES UNDER CONTRACT TO THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY
28 COLLEGE, THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACCREDITING AGENCY SHALL
29 PERTAIN TO THE DESIGNATION OF SUCH AWARDS.

30 SECTION 1912-G. FUNDING.

1 THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS
2 ARTICLE SHALL BE FUNDED BY TUITION AND FEES ESTABLISHED BY THE
3 BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MAY ACCEPT APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE
4 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, GRANTS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, GRANTS
5 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH, GRANTS FROM PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS OR ANY
6 COMBINATION THEREOF.

7 SECTION 1913-G. FINANCIAL AID.

8 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE RURAL REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
9 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL
10 AID TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW.

11 SECTION 1914-G. REGULATIONS.

12 THE STATE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO THE
13 ACT OF JUNE 25, 1982 (P.L.633, NO.181), KNOWN AS THE REGULATORY
14 REVIEW ACT, AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS ARTICLE.

15 SECTION 1915-G. REPORTS.

16 THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE SHALL PREPARE
17 AND SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WRITTEN INTERIM AND FINAL
18 REPORTS EVALUATING THE OPERATION OF THIS ARTICLE. THE INTERIM
19 REPORT SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY JUNE 30, 2018, AND THE FINAL REPORT
20 SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY JUNE 30, 2022. EACH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE,
21 BUT MAY NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

22 (1) A REVIEW OF THE SUCCESS OF THE RURAL REGIONAL
23 COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ARTICLE IN
24 SATISFYING THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THE RURAL REGIONAL
25 COMMUNITY COLLEGE PLAN APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY AND IN
26 SATISFYING THE NEEDS OF THE MULTICOUNTY AREA THE RURAL
27 REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE WAS ESTABLISHED TO SERVE.

28 (2) DEMOGRAPHIC AND PROGRAM DATA, INCLUDING THE
29 FOLLOWING:

30 (I) NUMBERS OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME FACULTY AND

1 STUDENT ENROLLMENTS, IN TOTAL AND WITHIN CURRICULAR
2 AREAS.

3 (II) DUAL ENROLLMENT PARTICIPATION.

4 (III) CREDIT HOURS TAUGHT BY FACULTY.

5 (IV) DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES OFFERED.

6 (V) ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION
7 INSTITUTIONS.

8 (VI) LISTS OF COURSES WITH FEWER THAN 20 STUDENTS.

9 (VII) LISTS OF COURSES WITH MORE THAN 50 STUDENTS.

10 WHERE AVAILABLE, STUDENT DATA SHALL BE DISAGGREGATED BY
11 CATEGORIES, INCLUDING GENDER, RACE AND AGE.

12 (3) STUDENT PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES, INCLUDING
13 THE FOLLOWING:

14 (I) RETENTION RATES RELATED TO STUDENT GOALS.

15 (II) GRADUATION AND COMPLETION RATES AFTER TWO,
16 THREE AND FOUR YEARS.

17 (III) PASSING RATES ON CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE
18 EXAMINATIONS.

19 (IV) NUMBER OF STUDENTS EMPLOYED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF
20 PROGRAM COMPLETION.

21 (V) PLACEMENT INTO ADDITIONAL EDUCATION OR
22 EMPLOYMENT IN THE STUDENT'S FIELD OF STUDY.

23 WHERE AVAILABLE, DATA SHALL BE DISAGGREGATED BY CATEGORIES,
24 INCLUDING GENDER, RACE AND AGE.

25 (4) ECONOMIC AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT MEASURES,
26 INCLUDING:

27 (I) EMPLOYER SATISFACTION.

28 (II) CUSTOMIZED JOB TRAINING OFFERINGS.

29 (III) EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

30 (IV) NUMBERS OF BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS SERVED.

1 (5) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.

2 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.