
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2338 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GABLER, BENNINGHOFF, SAYLOR, SANKEY, BOBACK,
CAUSER, COOK-ARTIS, CUTLER, DAY, DRISCOLL, DUSH, ELLIS, FEE,
GILLESPIE, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GROVE, HARHART, HARPER, HELM,
PHILLIPS-HILL, KNOWLES, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MCGINNIS, MENTZER,
B. MILLER, MILNE, NESBIT, O'NEILL, OBERLANDER, RAPP, REGAN,
SCHEMEL, SCHLOSSBERG, SIMMONS, SNYDER, STURLA, TAYLOR,
TOBASH, TOPPER, TURZAI, WARD, WENTLING, ZIMMERMAN, KLUNK,
JOZWIAK, MAHONEY AND GINGRICH, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

AN ACT

1 Providing for student protection during the transition of a
2 postsecondary education institution to new accreditation.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Student
7 Protection Act.

8 Section 2. Student protections.

9 (a) General rule.--If the United States Department of
10 Education discontinues its recognition of a national accrediting
11 agency, the Commonwealth shall take all actions necessary to
12 ensure the following with respect to each student who attends
13 any of the Pennsylvania postsecondary education institutions
14 that are currently accredited by the national accrediting agency
15 that loses Federal recognition:

1 (1) Such student will remain eligible for all State
2 financial assistance through the Pennsylvania Higher
3 Education Assistance Agency and any other State agency
4 through which such student may be eligible for assistance,
5 provided the student meets all other qualifications for the
6 financial assistance.

7 (2) Such student will remain eligible for State
8 licensure, certification or any other professional credential
9 for which the student has trained, provided the student meets
10 all other qualifications and passes any exams or assessments
11 necessary for such licensure, certification or credential.

12 (b) Transition of institutions to new accreditors.--The
13 Pennsylvania postsecondary education institutions that are
14 accredited by the national accrediting agency that loses Federal
15 recognition shall be provided a transition period of no less
16 than 18 months to receive new accreditation by another
17 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
18 Education. The student protections provided in subsection (a)
19 shall remain in effect for students attending these institutions
20 throughout this transition period. If a Pennsylvania
21 postsecondary education institution has not received new
22 accreditation by the end of this 18-month transition period, the
23 agencies of the Commonwealth may continue the student
24 protections provided in subsection (a) until new accreditation
25 is received if the agency deems the extension of the protections
26 to be in the best interest of the students attending the
27 institution.

28 Section 3. Expiration.

29 This act shall expire December 31, 2018.

30 Section 4. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect immediately.