

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2421 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, GAINEY, SIMS, J. HARRIS, KINSEY, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, D. MILLER, THOMAS, READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE, KIRKLAND, ROEBUCK, McCLINTON, HILL-EVANS, DALEY, NEILSON AND LEWIS, MAY 17, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 17, 2018

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 preliminary provisions, providing
 6 for historically black colleges and universities
 7 coordination; and making an appropriation.

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

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

13 Section 127. Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 14 Coordination.--(a) There is hereby established in the
 15 Department of Education a position which shall be known as the
 16 Liaison for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

17 (b) The liaison shall:

18 (1) Work with departments, the private sector, educational
 19 associations, philanthropic organizations and other partners to

1 increase the role of HBCUs in this Commonwealth to provide the
2 highest quality education to a greater number of students.

3 (2) Utilize HBCUs to service the Commonwealth's needs, which
4 shall, at a minimum, include:

5 (i) Strengthening HBCUs participation in State programs.

6 (ii) Fostering and promoting private-sector initiatives and
7 public-private partnerships while promoting specific areas and
8 centers of academic research and programmatic excellence at
9 every HBCU in this Commonwealth.

10 (iii) Improving the availability, dissemination and quality
11 of information concerning HBCUs to inform public policy and
12 practice.

13 (iv) Sharing administrative and programmatic practices
14 within departments for the benefit of every HBCU.

15 (v) Exploring new ways of improving the relationship between
16 the Commonwealth and HBCUs.

17 (3) Provide appropriate guidance and assistance to
18 facilitate implementation of this section.

19 (c) The liaison may enter into one or more memoranda of
20 understanding with departments on terms deemed by the parties to
21 be appropriate, mutually beneficial and in the best interests of
22 HBCUs and the Commonwealth.

23 (d) Each department may create an annual plan strengthening
24 HBCUs participation in appropriate Federal and State programs
25 and initiatives. Each department plan shall address, at a
26 minimum, the department's proposed efforts to:

27 (1) Establish how the department intends to encourage HBCU
28 competition for grants, contract and cooperative agreement.

29 (2) Identify State programs and initiatives where HBCUs may
30 be underserved or underused as national resources and improve

1 HBCU participation.

2 (3) Encourage public sector, private sector and community
3 involvement of HBCUs.

4 (e) If a department creates an annual plan pursuant to
5 subsection (d), then the department shall:

6 (1) Provide appropriate measurable objectives and annually
7 assess the department's performance on the goals set in the
8 department's previous year's plan.

9 (2) Provide a written summary of the objectives and goals to
10 the chair and minority chair of the Education Committee of the
11 Senate and the chair and minority chair of the Education
12 Committee of the House of Representatives within thirty (30)
13 days of the annual assessment conducted under paragraph (1).

14 (3) Post the annual assessment on the department's publicly
15 accessible Internet website after a written summary is provided.

16 (f) (1) The liaison may establish a board of advisors
17 consisting of no more than twenty-five (25) members appointed by
18 the liaison. The board of advisors may not receive compensation
19 for their time. The board of advisors shall be comprised of
20 sitting HBCU presidents, private foundations and representatives
21 from the business, education, entrepreneurial and financial
22 sectors.

23 (2) The board shall provide advice on:

24 (i) Improving the identity, visibility, distinctive
25 capabilities and overall competitiveness of HBCUs.

26 (ii) Engaging the philanthropic, business, government,
27 military, homeland security and education communities in dialog
28 regarding new HBCU programs and initiatives.

29 (iii) Improving the ability of HBCUs to remain fiscally
30 secure institutions that can assist the Commonwealth in reaching

1 its education goals.

2 (iv) Elevating public awareness of HBCUs.

3 (v) Encouraging public-private investments in HBCUs.

4 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
6 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Department." Any of the following:

8 (1) The Department of Aging.

9 (2) The Department of Agriculture.

10 (3) The Department of Banking and Securities.

11 (4) The Department of Community and Economic Development.

12 (5) The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

13 (6) The Department of Corrections.

14 (7) The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

15 (8) The Department of Education.

16 (9) The Department of Environmental Protection.

17 (10) The Department of General Services.

18 (11) The Department of Health.

19 (12) The Department of Human Services.

20 (13) The Insurance Department.

21 (14) The Department of Labor and Industry.

22 (15) The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

23 (16) The Department of Revenue.

24 (17) The Department of State.

25 (18) The Department of Transportation.

26 (19) The State System of Higher Education.

27 "HBCU." Historically black colleges and universities in this
28 Commonwealth.

29 "Liaison." Liaison for HBCU in the Department of Education
30 of the Commonwealth.

1 Section 2. The sum of \$250,000, or as much thereof as may be
2 necessary, is appropriated to the Department of Education for
3 the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, to carry out the
4 provisions of section 127 of the act.

5 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.