

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1659 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY HOUGHTON, SHAPIRO, McILVAINE SMITH, BRIGGS,
BRADFORD, FREEMAN, HARHAI, STURLA, WANSACZ, BENNINGHOFF,
BEYER, BOYD, D. COSTA, DONATUCCI, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GROVE,
HARKINS, HELM, HENNESSEY, HORNAMAN, MAHONEY, MANN, MILNE,
MUSTIO, PAYTON, PETRARCA, PRESTON, SAINATO, SEIP, SOLOBAY,
SIPTROTH, VULAKOVICH, YOUNGBLOOD, BROWN AND MURT,
JUNE 10, 2009

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JULY 2, 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:

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

3 (2) Establish and maintain records and data detailing
4 the credits transferred to and received from other public
5 institutions of higher education as the department may
6 prescribe.

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

12 (4) Agree to accept for transfer foundation courses
13 determined to meet equivalency standards under section
14 2004-C(c) (2) .

15 ~~(a.1) Completion of second phase. Each public institution~~ ←
16 ~~of higher education shall agree to accept for transfer courses~~
17 ~~that qualify under section 2004 C(c) (2.2) by June 30, 2011.~~

18 (A.1) COMPLETION OF SECOND PHASE.--EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION ←
19 OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL AGREE TO ACCEPT WITH FULL JUNIOR
20 STANDING THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE
21 INTO A PARALLEL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN SECTION
22 2004-C(C) (2.1), (2.2), (2.3) AND (2.4) BY THE TIMELINES
23 ESTABLISHED BY THE TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION SUBCOMMITTEE BUT
24 NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2011. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS
25 ARTICLE, AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE IS
26 A DEGREE DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR TRANSFER TO A BACCALAUREATE
27 INSTITUTION AND MUST CONTAIN A MINIMUM OF 60 CREDITS.

28 (b) Reporting requirements.--

29 (1) A public institution of higher education shall
30 submit to the department a series of interim reports

1 outlining the actions that the public institution of higher
2 education has undertaken or intends to undertake to comply
3 with subsection (a), which shall be filed December 31, 2006,
4 June 30, 2007, and December 31, 2007.

5 (2) A public institution of higher education shall
6 submit to the department interim reports outlining the
7 actions that the public institution of higher education has
8 undertaken or intends to undertake to comply with subsection
9 (a.1), which shall be filed by December 31, 2009, June 30,
10 2010, and December 31, 2010.

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

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

14 * * *

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

17 * * *

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

27 ~~(2.2) No later than June 30, 2010, in consultation with~~
28 ~~faculty and personnel, determine equivalent courses for an~~
29 ~~additional 30 credit hours that will count toward~~
30 ~~baccalaureate graduation requirements in all public~~

~~institutions of higher education. The credit hours shall not include developmental or remedial courses or career, technical or applied courses except if those courses are 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) IDENTIFY 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]
INSTITUTIONS.

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

~~(b) Election to participate. An independent institution of~~
~~higher education or a State related institution that elects to~~
~~participate under subsection (a) shall be subject to all of the~~
~~requirements of this act.~~

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