

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2159 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY STAATS, QUIGLEY, LEWIS, PICKETT, IRVIN, ROEBUCK, MULLERY, MCGINNIS, SCHLOSSBERG, MURT, CHARLTON, O'NEILL, WARD, B. MILLER, PHILLIPS-HILL, BARBIN, PASHINSKI, DERMODY, HEFFLEY, J. McNEILL, CUTLER, GROVE, HANNA, D. MILLER, SAYLOR, JOZWIAK, CORR, RAPP, THOMAS, DAY, TOOHL, COX, JAMES AND M. QUINN, APRIL 6, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 6, 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 transfers of credits between  
 6 institutions of higher education, further providing for  
 7 definitions, for duties of public institutions of higher  
 8 education and State-related institutions, for Transfer and  
 9 Articulation Oversight Committee and for duties of  
 10 department.

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

13 Section 1. Section 2001-C of the act of March 10, 1949  
 14 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
 15 amended November 6, 2017 (P.L.1142, No.55), is amended to read:  
 16 Section 2001-C. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
 18 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
 19 context clearly indicates otherwise:

20 "Advanced Placement Program." A program authorized by the

1 college board that allows a student to study college-level  
2 subjects while enrolled in high school and to receive advanced  
3 placement and college credit for earning a qualified score on  
4 the course-related Advanced Placement Program exam.

5 "Career, technical or applied courses." Courses usually  
6 offered as part of an associate degree curriculum designed to  
7 prepare students for entry-level professions, not for transfer  
8 to baccalaureate programs for advanced studies.

9 "College-Level Examination Program." A set of standardized  
10 tests developed by the college board for various subjects, and  
11 on which a qualifying score can be used to earn college credit.

12 "Community college." An institution created pursuant to  
13 Article XIX-A or the act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484),  
14 known as the Community College Act of 1963.

15 "Credit for prior learning." College-level credit granted  
16 toward the award of a postsecondary degree or certificate for  
17 experiential learning that can be demonstrated through various  
18 means of assessment to be the equivalent of learning gained  
19 through formal collegiate instruction, including an Advanced  
20 Placement Program exam, International Baccalaureate Diploma  
21 Program exam, a College-Level Examination Program exam and  
22 Dantes Subject Standardized Tests.

23 "Dantes Subject Standardized Tests." A set of subject exams  
24 approved by the American Council on Education that tests  
25 knowledge of both lower-level and upper-level college material.

26 ["Degree objective courses." Courses required for completion  
27 of a major in a subject area.]

28 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
29 Commonwealth.

30 "Developmental or remedial courses." Courses typically

1 consisting of reading, writing and math designed to prepare  
2 students for college-level courses and that are not  
3 transferable.

4 "Equivalent courses." Courses determined to have generally  
5 equivalent content and level as determined by the faculty of an  
6 institution of higher education consistent with the policy at  
7 each institution of higher education.

8 "Foundation courses." Courses required to be completed by  
9 students that provide an academic foundation for the degree,  
10 general education or advanced study in a major.

11 "Independent institution of higher education." An  
12 institution of higher education which is operated not for  
13 profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by the  
14 Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees as set forth in 24  
15 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees) and to  
16 apply to itself the designation "college" or "university" as  
17 provided for by the standards and qualifications prescribed by  
18 the State Board of Education pursuant to 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65  
19 (relating to private colleges, universities and seminaries).

20 "Industry-recognized credential." A credential that:

21 (1) is sought or accepted by employers within the  
22 industry or sector involved as a recognized, preferred or  
23 required credential for recruitment, screening, hiring,  
24 retention or advancement purposes;

25 (2) where appropriate, is endorsed by a nationally  
26 recognized trade association or organization representing a  
27 significant part of the industry or sector; and

28 (3) is approved by the department.

29 "Institution of higher education." Any of the accredited  
30 following:

1           (1) A public institution of higher education.

2           (2) A rural regional college.

3           (3) A State-related institution.

4           (4) The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

5           "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program." An  
6 academically challenging two-year precollege diploma program  
7 comprised of three core requirements and six academic subject  
8 areas with final examinations that prepare students, 16 to 19  
9 years of age, for higher education and life in a global society.

10          "Public institution of higher education." A community  
11 college or an institution which is part of the State System of  
12 Higher Education pursuant to Article XX-A.

13          "Public school." Any of the following:

14           (1) A school district.

15           (2) An intermediate unit.

16           (3) An area vocational-technical school.

17           (4) A charter school, as defined in section 1703-A.

18           (5) A regional charter school, as defined in section  
19 1703-A.

20           (6) A cyber charter school, as defined in section 1703-  
21 A.

22          "Rural regional college." A rural regional college operating  
23 under Article XIX-G.

24          "State-related institution." The Pennsylvania State  
25 University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University,  
26 Lincoln University and their branch campuses.

27          "Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee." The  
28 committee established under section 2004-C.

29          Section 2. Section 2003-C of the act is amended to read:  
30 Section 2003-C. Duties of [public] institutions of higher

1 education and [State-related institutions] public  
2 schools.

3 (a) Agreements.--Each [public] institution of higher  
4 education and [State-related institution] public school shall  
5 provide the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee and  
6 the department with copies of all articulation agreements for  
7 inclusion in the electronic database or software program and  
8 portal provided for under section 2005-C(4) within 180 days of  
9 the effective date of this section and within 30 days of  
10 entering into any subsequent articulation agreement.

11 (b) Reporting requirements.--The following shall apply to  
12 reporting requirements:

13 (1) Each [public] institution of higher education [and  
14 State-related institution] shall submit to the department a  
15 series of interim reports that describe the status of the  
16 institution's articulation agreements, which shall include  
17 all of the following:

18 (i) The number of students who have transferred to  
19 the [public] institution of higher education [or State-  
20 related institution] by institution of origin within the  
21 last academic year or since submittal of the  
22 institution's last interim report required under this  
23 section.

24 (ii) The total number of credits completed by  
25 transfer students at the institution of origin.

26 (iii) The total number of credits from each  
27 institution of origin that transferred to the [public]  
28 institution of higher education [or State-related  
29 institution] for each academic year.

30 (iv) An explanation of the credit transfer process

1 at the institution.

2 (v) Any other information related to the credit  
3 transfer process as requested by the department,  
4 including the useability of transfer credits.

5 (2) Each [public] institution of higher education [and  
6 State-related institution] shall submit its first interim  
7 report required under this section 180 days after the  
8 effective date of this section and by September 30, 2018, and  
9 each September 30 thereafter.

10 Section 3. Section 2004-C(a)(1) introductory paragraph is  
11 amended and subsection (c) is amended by adding a paragraph to  
12 read:

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

14 (a) Establishment and membership.--

15 (1) In order to develop and implement equivalency  
16 standards as provided for in subsection (c)(1) and provide  
17 access to articulation agreements, there is hereby  
18 established within the department, the Transfer and  
19 Articulation Oversight Committee. The committee shall be  
20 comprised of the following members:

21 \* \* \*

22 (c) Duties of Transfer and Articulation Oversight

23 Committee.--The committee shall:

24 \* \* \*

25 (7) Meet on a regular basis at least quarterly.

26 Section 4. Section 2005-C(4) of the act is amended to read:

27 Section 2005-C. Duties of department.

28 The department shall:

29 \* \* \*

30 (4) Provide for an electronic database or software

1 program and portal for the purpose of providing access to all  
2 of the following information on an Internet website:

3 (i) Articulation agreements and agreements that  
4 award credit for an industry-recognized credential  
5 entered into by [public institutions of higher education  
6 and institutions that elect to participate under section  
7 2006-C.] institutions of higher education, public schools  
8 and institutions described under clause (C). The  
9 following shall apply:

10 (A) The department shall extract transfer  
11 information from each articulation agreement and each  
12 agreement that awards credit for an industry-  
13 recognized credential and enter the information into  
14 the electronic database or software program and  
15 portal and provide a meaningful, user-friendly and  
16 interactive search engine for access to the  
17 information.

18 (B) The department shall, within 60 days of  
19 receiving an articulation agreement or agreement that  
20 awards credit for an industry-recognized credential,  
21 update the database and post each articulation  
22 agreement and each agreement that awards credit for  
23 an industry-recognized credential on its publicly  
24 accessible Internet website.

25 (C) An institution which is not subject to the  
26 duties under section 2003-C may submit to the  
27 department any articulation agreement or agreement  
28 that awards credit for an industry-recognized  
29 credential into which the institution enters. Each  
30 submitted articulation agreement and each agreement

1           that awards credit for an industry-recognized  
2           credential shall be subject to this paragraph.

3           (ii) The annual report to the General Assembly as  
4 required by section 2004-C(c) (5).

5           [(iii) At the request of a public institution of  
6 higher education or an institution that elects to  
7 participate under section 2006-C, any articulation  
8 agreements.]

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