

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 897

Sponsor: SENATOR MARTIN

Printer's No. 3424

1 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 1 through 12, by striking out all
2 of said lines and inserting

3 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
4 act relating to the public school system, including certain
5 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
6 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
7 laws relating thereto," in transfers of credits between
8 institutions of higher education, further providing for
9 definitions and for duties of public institutions of higher
10 education, providing for guaranteed admission and further
11 providing for applicability; in higher education
12 accountability and transparency, further providing for
13 definitions and providing for transparency and
14 accountability; in miscellaneous provisions relating to
15 institutions of higher education, providing for Dual Credit
16 Innovation Grant Program; providing for institutions of
17 higher education and for coordination of higher education;
18 and making editorial changes.

19 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 15 through 21; pages 2 through 8,
20 lines 1 through 30; page 9, lines 1 and 2; by striking out all
21 of said lines on said pages and inserting

22 Section 1. Section 2001-C of the act of March 10, 1949
23 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
24 amended by adding definitions to read:
25 Section 2001-C. Definitions.

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

29 * * *

30 "Associate degree." The term includes an associate of arts
31 degree, associate of science degree, associate of fine arts
32 degree or associate of applied science degree.

33 * * *

34 "Parallel baccalaureate degree program." A bachelor's degree
35 program in a comparable field of study and with similar

1 foundation-level, major-specific competencies as an associate
2 degree program, as articulated in program-to-program agreements.

3 * * *

4 "Receiving institution." The public institution of higher
5 education where a transfer student plans to enroll and to apply
6 previously earned credit toward a degree program.

7 * * *

8 Section 2. Section 2002-C(c)(1) of the act is amended to
9 read:

10 Section 2002-C. Duties of public institutions of higher
11 education.

12 * * *

13 (c) Other duties.--Each public institution of higher
14 education shall do all of the following:

15 (1) Agree to accept with full junior standing the
16 associate [of arts or associate of science] degree [into a]
17 and to apply all college-level credits earned to fulfill the
18 degree requirements at the public institution of higher
19 education, including major requirements and general education
20 requirements, toward the parallel baccalaureate degree
21 program as outlined in paragraph (3) [by the timelines
22 established by the Transfer and Articulation Oversight
23 Committee but] no later than December 31, [2011] 2024. For
24 purposes of this paragraph, an associate [of arts or
25 associate of science] degree is a degree designed primarily
26 for transfer to a baccalaureate institution and must contain
27 a minimum of 60 credits. The following shall apply:

28 (i) A student with an associate degree from a public
29 institution of higher education who is transferring into
30 a parallel baccalaureate degree program at another public
31 institution of higher education shall be awarded full
32 junior standing and shall not be required to
33 satisfactorily complete more than 60 credits to earn a
34 120 credit baccalaureate degree in a parallel program,
35 regardless of the courses the student took to earn the
36 associate degree prior to transferring, unless required
37 to meet accreditation or external licensure or
38 certification standards.

39 (ii) A student transferring into a parallel
40 baccalaureate degree program with an associate degree
41 shall be guaranteed admission to the parallel
42 baccalaureate degree program, subject to capacity, if the
43 student meets the program criteria required of students
44 in the parallel baccalaureate degree program at the
45 receiving institution.

46 (iii) A student transferring from one public
47 institution of higher education to another public
48 institution of higher education shall have the same
49 requirements for retention as a student in the parallel
50 baccalaureate degree program at the receiving
51 institution.

1 (iv) A public institution of higher education may
2 designate majors or programs of study that are limited
3 access by reason of accreditation, clinical or resource-
4 based capacity.

5 (v) A student transferring from a public institution
6 of higher education with an associate degree shall have
7 satisfied the general education requirements at the
8 receiving institution, with possible exceptions made for
9 the following, provided that the exceptions do not extend
10 the student's time to the degree:

11 (A) One signature general education course of up
12 to three credits, if applicable.

13 (B) A prescribed general education course
14 required for the major, if not satisfactorily
15 completed.

16 (C) General education overlays satisfied in
17 advanced courses in the major.

18 * * *

19 Section 3. The act is amended by adding sections to read:
20 Section 2003.1-C. Guaranteed admission.

21 A public institution of higher education shall ensure that an
22 undergraduate student transferring from a public institution of
23 higher education with an associate degree shall be guaranteed
24 admission into the parallel baccalaureate degree program at a
25 public institution of higher education except in programs that
26 have mandated admission requirements, including, but not limited
27 to:

28 (1) A program requiring an audition.

29 (2) A program with additional retention requirements
30 imposed by an accreditor.

31 Section 4. Section 2007-C of the act is amended to read:
32 Section 2007-C. Applicability.

33 [Nothing] Except as otherwise provided, nothing in this
34 article shall [do any of the following]:

35 (1) Preclude any institution of higher education from
36 establishing institution-to-institution articulation
37 agreements.

38 (2) Void articulation agreements that have been
39 established prior to the effective date of this section.

40 Section 5. Article XX-H of the act is amended by adding a
41 subarticle heading immediately preceding section 2001-H to read:

42 SUBARTICLE A

43 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

44 Section 6. Section 2001-H of the act is amended by adding
45 definitions to read:

46 Section 2001-H. Definitions.

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

50 * * *

51 "Mandatory fee." A charge imposed by an institution of

1 higher education to all of the institution's students,
2 irrespective of their course or admission status, for enrollment
3 or attendance for items not covered by tuition, room or board
4 fees.

5 * * *

6 "Online student portal." A secured internal Internet service
7 administered by an institution of higher education on which a
8 student of the institution of higher education can access
9 personal academic, financial or other information related to
10 attending the institution of higher education.

11 * * *

12 Section 7. Article XX-H of the act is amended by adding a
13 subarticle heading immediately preceding section 2002-H to read:

14 SUBARTICLE B

15 COLLEGE NAVIGATOR

16 Section 8. Article XX-H of the act is amended by adding a
17 subarticle to read:

18 SUBARTICLE C

19 TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

20 Section 2004-H. Student fee transparency.

21 (a) Display.--An institution of higher education shall
22 prominently display a description of every mandatory fee charged
23 by the institution of higher education and shall publish the fee
24 description on each institution of higher education's publicly
25 accessible Internet website and online student portal prior to
26 the term for which the mandatory fee will be charged and
27 included in any tuition bill. The amount of the mandatory fee
28 must be accompanied by a description of:

29 (1) The general purpose of the mandatory fee.

30 (2) How the mandatory fee is expected to be allocated
31 and used.

32 (3) How the mandatory fee will be collected and the
33 academic year or semester for which the fee will be assessed.

34 (b) Publication of fees.--Beginning November 15, 2025, and
35 by November 15 of each year thereafter, an institution of higher
36 education shall publish on the institution's publicly accessible
37 Internet website the following information from the prior
38 academic year:

39 (1) The total amount of mandatory fees collected.

40 (2) The amount of mandatory fees allocated to each use.

41 (c) Linking.--Beginning on June 30, 2026, and by June 30 of
42 each year thereafter, an institution of higher education shall
43 provide the department with evidence that the fee information is
44 published on the institution's publicly accessible Internet
45 website.

46 Section 2005-H. Higher education cost transparency.

47 (a) General rule.--An institution of higher education shall
48 provide the following information to a prospective student as
49 part of the student's offer of enrollment at the institution of
50 higher education or as part of the student's financial aid
51 offer:

1 (1) An estimate of the total cost of attendance,
2 including:

3 (i) Tuition for the student's first academic year.

4 (ii) A list of each fee charged to a student in the
5 student's first academic year. The fees shall include
6 both mandatory and optional fees.

7 (iii) A breakdown of all room and board options and
8 the costs associated with each option for the student's
9 first academic year.

10 (iv) Books and supplies.

11 (2) An estimate of the financial aid offered, as
12 available, by the institution of higher education, including,
13 but not limited to:

14 (i) All grants or scholarships that do not require
15 repayment.

16 (ii) Student loans that require repayment.

17 (iii) Student employment options.

18 (3) An estimate of the net cost that subtracts any
19 scholarships or grants being offered from the estimated total
20 cost of attendance.

21 (4) An estimate of the total cost of attendance for
22 subsequent years. The estimate may be provided through easily
23 accessible electronic means and shall include:

24 (i) Information regarding whether or not the
25 financial aid is being offered only for the upcoming
26 academic year or if it is renewable for subsequent
27 academic years. If the financial aid is renewable for
28 subsequent academic years, the information shall include
29 any requirements that must be met in order for renewal of
30 the financial aid.

31 (ii) A history of previous academic year's tuition.

32 (iii) An estimate of the total tuition that the
33 student will be charged in each academic year necessary
34 for the student to receive a degree in the student's
35 major.

36 (iv) An estimate of the total amount of fees charged
37 to a student in each academic year necessary for the
38 student to receive a degree in the student's major.

39 (b) Disclosure to prospective student.--An institution of
40 higher education shall use easily understood terms and clearly
41 identify each piece of financial aid that a student must repay.

42 (c) Public availability.--Each institution of higher
43 education shall make available on its publicly accessible
44 Internet website an estimate of all tuition, fees and room and
45 board that may be charged in an academic year.

46 Section 2006-H. Exit counseling.

47 (a) General rule.--Unless an individual selects not to
48 participate, each institution of higher education shall make
49 financial aid counseling available to each student at the end of
50 the student's final academic term.

51 (b) Counseling for graduating students.--The financial aid

1 counseling for a student who graduates at the end of the
2 academic term shall, at a minimum, include:

3 (1) A list of all available Federal and State programs,
4 including, if available, related websites and contact
5 information, that may assist with payments, reductions or
6 forgiveness of the individual's student loans.

7 (2) All available repayment options on student loans
8 known to the institution of higher education and, if
9 available, a link to an online student loan payment
10 calculator.

11 (3) Information on when a student's loan payments will
12 begin and information on assistance with delaying repayment
13 of loans.

14 (4) Any other information that the institution of higher
15 education deems necessary to help an exiting student
16 understand options relating to repaying student loans.

17 (c) Counseling for students who transfer or withdraw.--With
18 respect to a student who leaves an institution of higher
19 education without the knowledge of the institution or transfers
20 to another institution, the institution shall attempt to make
21 financial aid counseling available to the student. If the
22 institution is unable to get in contact with the student, the
23 institution shall mail the information described in subsection
24 (b) in writing to the student at the last known address on file.

25 (d) Method of counseling.--An institution of higher
26 education may offer the counseling required under this section
27 in person or virtually and may partner with the Pennsylvania
28 Higher Education Assistance Agency or a similar entity to
29 provide the required counseling.

30 Section 9. Article XX-I of the act is amended by adding a
31 section to read:

32 Section 2004-I. Dual Credit Innovation Grant Program.

33 (a) Establishment.--The Dual Credit Innovation Grant Program
34 is established within the department to award grants to public
35 institutions of higher education that offer dual credit
36 opportunities to high school students enrolled in a school
37 entity.

38 (b) Use of funding.--Funding provided for the program shall
39 be used for the purpose of increasing the capacity for public
40 institutions of higher education to provide dual credit courses.
41 Money awarded through a grant may be used for the following:

42 (1) To operate dual credit courses that are tuition free
43 to high school students.

44 (2) To support public institutions of higher education
45 in seeking external accreditation for their dual credit
46 courses.

47 (3) To provide student academic supports to aid students
48 enrolled in dual credit courses to be successful in the
49 courses and to successfully transition to postsecondary
50 education upon graduation from high school.

51 (4) To increase the use of no-cost or low-cost textbooks

1 or course materials used in dual credit courses.

2 (5) To provide professional development activities for
3 high school teachers to enable them to teach dual credit
4 courses.

5 (c) Priority.--The department shall give priority in grant
6 funding to public institutions of higher education that expand
7 the current offerings of the public institution of higher
8 education, with a particular emphasis on providing courses
9 aligned with high-priority occupations and serving students
10 experiencing education instability as defined in section 1331.1,
11 students enrolled in career and technical education programs,
12 low-income students, historically underserved student groups and
13 students in rural areas of this Commonwealth.

14 (d) Additional priority.--If the department does not receive
15 sufficient applications to expend the available funding under
16 this section, the department may award grants for the uses under
17 subsection (b) to State-related institutions and independent
18 institutions of higher education.

19 (e) Limitation.--Nothing in this section shall be construed
20 to supersede or preempt the rights, remedies and procedures
21 afforded to school employees or labor organizations under
22 Federal or State law, including the act of July 23, 1970
23 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the Public Employe Relations Act, or
24 any provision of a collective bargaining agreement between a
25 school entity and an exclusive representative of the employees
26 in accordance with that act.

27 (f) Reporting and accountability.--For the purpose of
28 improving data collection and transparency related to the value
29 of dual credit courses to the success of students as they
30 graduate high school and transition to postsecondary education,
31 the department shall annually collect student-level data from
32 grant recipients and use other existing data resources to inform
33 the following measures and post aggregate, de-identified
34 information related to all of the following on the department's
35 publicly accessible Internet website:

36 (1) The demographics of students enrolled in dual credit
37 courses.

38 (2) The high school graduation rate of students enrolled
39 in dual credit courses.

40 (3) The percentage of economically disadvantaged
41 students enrolled in dual credit courses and the percentage
42 of students enrolled in dual credit courses who are
43 economically disadvantaged.

44 (4) The percentage of dual credit students who enroll in
45 a regionally accredited postsecondary institution the fall
46 after graduation, within one year and within two years after
47 high school graduation.

48 (5) The number of college credits earned by students
49 enrolled in dual credit courses while in high school.

50 (6) An estimate of the cost savings to the families of
51 students enrolled in dual credit courses.

1 (7) The percentage of dual credit students who enroll in
2 an institution of higher education following high school
3 graduation and go on to graduate or transfer to a four-year
4 institution within two, three and four years of high school
5 graduation.

6 (8) The percentage of dual credit students who enroll in
7 an institution of higher education following high school
8 graduation and go on to graduate in four, five or six years.

9 (9) The percentage of dual credit students who attend
10 postsecondary institutions located in this Commonwealth
11 following graduation compared to those who attend out-of-
12 State postsecondary institutions.

13 (g) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
14 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
15 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Department." The Department of Education of the
17 Commonwealth.

18 "Dual credit." Credit received under an agreement between a
19 school entity and an institution of higher education approved to
20 operate in this Commonwealth in which a student earns both high
21 school and postsecondary credit by taking a single postsecondary
22 course.

23 "Grant." A grant provided under the program.

24 "Independent institution of higher education." An
25 institution of higher education operated not for profit, located
26 and incorporated or chartered by the Commonwealth and entitled
27 to confer degrees as provided in 24 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to
28 power to confer degrees) and which applies to itself the
29 designation "college" or "university" as provided for by the
30 standards and qualifications prescribed by the State Board of
31 Education under 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65 (relating to private colleges,
32 universities and seminaries).

33 "Institution of higher education." The term includes an
34 independent institution of higher education, public institution
35 of higher education and a State-related institution.

36 "Program." The Dual Credit Innovation Grant Program
37 established in this section.

38 "Public institution of higher education." An institution of
39 the State System of Higher Education established under Article
40 XX-A, a community college established under Article XIX-A,
41 Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology established under Article
42 XIX-B, the Pennsylvania College of Technology or the rural
43 regional college established under Article XIX-G upon
44 accreditation.

45 "School entity." A school district, area career and
46 technical school, charter school, cyber charter school or
47 regional charter school.

48 "State-related institution." The Pennsylvania State
49 University, including the Pennsylvania College of Technology,
50 the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University and Lincoln
51 University and their branch campuses.

1 Section 10. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

2 ARTICLE XX-L

3 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

4 SUBARTICLE A

5 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

6 Section 2001-L. Definitions.

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

10 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance
11 Agency.

12 "Board." The State Board of Higher Education established
13 under section 2010-L.

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

17 "Council." The Performance-based Funding Council established
18 under Subarticle C.

19 "Department." The Department of Education of the
20 Commonwealth.

21 "Financial aid." Funding to help a student pay for
22 postsecondary education, including grants, work study, loans and
23 scholarships.

24 "High-priority occupation." An occupation identified by the
25 Department of Labor and Industry under the act of December 18,
26 2001 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act.

27 "Higher Education Scholarship Law." The act of January 25,
28 1966 (1965 P.L.1546, No.541), referred to as the Higher
29 Education Scholarship Law.

30 "Independent institution of higher education." An
31 institution of higher education which is operated not for
32 profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by the
33 Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees as specified in 24
34 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees) and to
35 apply to itself the designation "college" or "university" as
36 provided for by the standards and qualifications prescribed by
37 the State Board of Education under 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65 (relating
38 to private colleges, universities and seminaries).

39 "Institution of higher education." As defined in section
40 1501-L.

41 "Institutional aid." Financial aid offered to an eligible
42 student directly by an institution of higher education,
43 including merit aid, gift aid and athletic awards.

44 "Pell Grant." The Federal Pell Grant or any successor
45 program.

46 "Pennsylvania State grant." A grant or scholarship awarded
47 under the Higher Education Scholarship Law.

48 "Private scholarship." Financial aid awards funded by
49 entities other than the Federal or State Government, including
50 awards by companies, service groups, foundations, organizations
51 and individuals.

1 "Public institution of higher education." A State-owned
2 university, community college or State-related university.

3 "State-owned university." An institution which is part of
4 the State System of Higher Education under Article XX-A.

5 "State-related university." The Pennsylvania State
6 University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University and
7 Lincoln University.

8 "System." The State System of Higher Education established
9 under Article XX-A.

10 SUBARTICLE B

11 COORDINATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

12 Section 2010-L. State Board of Higher Education.

13 (a) Establishment.--The State Board of Higher Education is
14 established within the department.

15 (b) Purpose.--The purpose of the board is to provide
16 direction, coordination and support to ensure that institutions
17 of higher education fully meet the workforce and economic
18 development needs of this Commonwealth and ensure that all
19 residents of this Commonwealth have access to affordable, world-
20 class postsecondary education.

21 (c) Membership and appointment.--The board shall consist of
22 the voting members specified in this subsection. In making
23 appointments to the board, the Governor shall ensure that the
24 appointee is a Pennsylvania resident and has the background and
25 experience suitable for performing the statutory responsibility
26 of a member of the board. Membership of the board shall be as
27 follows:

28 (1) The Secretary of Education or a designee who shall
29 be an employee of the department.

30 (2) The Secretary of Labor and Industry or a designee
31 who shall be an employee of the Department of Labor and
32 Industry.

33 (3) One member of the Senate appointed by the President
34 pro tempore of the Senate or a designee who shall be an
35 employee of the Senate.

36 (4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
37 Leader of the Senate or a designee who shall be an employee
38 of the Senate.

39 (5) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
40 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or a designee
41 who shall be an employee of the House of Representatives.

42 (6) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
43 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives or a
44 designee who shall be an employee of the House of
45 Representatives.

46 (7) Members appointed by the Governor, in accordance
47 with paragraph (8), as follows:

48 (i) One representative of a State-owned university
49 who must be a president, administrator or local trustee.

50 (ii) One representative of the Board of Governors of
51 the State System of Higher Education.

1 (iii) One representative of a community college who
2 must be a president, administrator or board member.

3 (iv) One representative of an independent
4 institution of higher education who must be a president,
5 administrator or board member.

6 (v) Four representatives, one from each State-
7 related university, who must be presidents, chancellors,
8 administrators or local trustees.

9 (vi) Two representatives of a union representing
10 employees at public institutions of higher education who
11 may not be from the same institutions of higher education
12 as the representatives under subparagraph (i) or (iii).

13 (vii) Two representatives of business.

14 (viii) Two student representatives, one of whom is a
15 student at an independent institution and one of whom is
16 a student at a public institution of higher education.

17 (ix) One representative of the Thaddeus Stevens
18 College of Technology.

19 (8) The Governor shall make the appointments under:

20 (i) paragraph (7)(iii) from a list of three names
21 submitted by the Pennsylvania Commission for Community
22 Colleges;

23 (ii) paragraph (7)(iv) from a list of three names
24 submitted by the Association of Independent Colleges and
25 Universities;

26 (iii) paragraph (7)(vii) from a list of five names
27 submitted by the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
28 Industry; and

29 (9) If an entity under paragraph (8) fails to submit a
30 list within 20 days of the establishment of the board or of a
31 vacancy of a member under paragraph (7), the Governor shall
32 appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy.

33 (d) Term.--The term of office of appointed members under
34 subsection (c)(7)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vii) and (ix)
35 shall be for a period of six years or until a successor is
36 appointed and qualified, except that, of the initial appointees,
37 the Governor shall designate three members to serve terms of two
38 years, four members to serve terms of four years and four
39 members to serve terms of six years. The Secretary of Education
40 and the Secretary of Labor and Industry shall serve as long as
41 they continue in office. Members of the board appointed by the
42 General Assembly shall serve a term of office concurrent with
43 their respective elective terms as members of the General
44 Assembly. The student members appointed by the Governor under
45 subsection (c)(7)(viii) shall serve a term of two years or upon
46 graduation, separation or failure to maintain good academic
47 standing at the institution of higher education in which the
48 students are enrolled. The members under subsection (c)(7)(vi)
49 may not serve more than one consecutive term of two years and
50 may not be from the same union.

51 (e) Organization.--The Governor shall designate a chair and

1 vice chair of the board. The members shall select from among
2 themselves such officers as they deem necessary.

3 (f) Quorum and meetings.--

4 (1) A majority of members shall constitute a quorum for
5 the transaction of any business.

6 (2) The board shall meet to conduct official business no
7 less than once every three months or by the call of the
8 chair.

9 (g) Expenses.--Members shall receive no compensation for
10 their services but shall be reimbursed for the expenses
11 necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

12 (h) Initial appointment and vacancies.--An appointing
13 authority shall appoint members to the board within 30 days of
14 the establishment of the board. If a vacancy occurs on the
15 board, the appointing authority shall appoint a successor member
16 within 30 days of the vacancy.

17 (i) Removal of board members.--An appointed member who fails
18 to attend three consecutive board meetings shall forfeit their
19 membership on the board, unless the chair, upon written request
20 from the member, determines that the member should be excused
21 from a meeting or meetings for good cause.

22 (j) Administrative services and staff.--

23 (1) The board shall select an individual to serve as the
24 executive director.

25 (2) The department shall, in consultation with the
26 executive director, provide administrative services and
27 additional staff to the board. The board shall be entitled to
28 legal counsel as designated by the Office of General Counsel.

29 (k) Applicability.--In addition to all applicable laws,
30 regulations and policies, the following acts shall apply to the
31 board:

32 (1) The act of July 19, 1957 (P.L.1017, No.451), known
33 as the State Adverse Interest Act.

34 (2) The act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as
35 the Right-to-Know Law.

36 (3) The provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Chs. 7 (relating to
37 open meetings) and 11 (relating to ethics standards and
38 financial disclosure).

39 Section 2011-L. Powers and duties of State Board of Higher
40 Education.

41 (a) General rule.--The board is charged with promoting
42 quality, accessible and affordable postsecondary education
43 throughout this Commonwealth by developing, planning and
44 advancing the higher education policy agenda of the Commonwealth
45 to address the challenges facing Pennsylvania.

46 (b) General powers.--The board shall have and may exercise
47 all powers appropriate to carry out and effectuate the board's
48 purposes under this article, including, but not limited to:

49 (1) Adopt bylaws, if necessary.

50 (2) Make and execute contracts, grants and other
51 instruments in accordance with this article.

1 (3) Apply for and receive money from any source
2 consistent with the purposes of this article.

3 (4) Establish subcommittees and advisory committees
4 composed as the chair or board deems necessary.

5 (5) Hold public hearings, solicit public comment and
6 seek stakeholder input on the direction of higher education
7 in this Commonwealth.

8 (6) Perform other operational activities necessary or
9 appropriate to further the purposes of this article.

10 (c) Duties.--The board shall perform all duties appropriate
11 to carry out and effectuate the board's purposes under this
12 article, including, but not limited to:

13 (1) Develop and advance a higher education strategic
14 plan and make recommendations that promote greater
15 postsecondary access, quality, affordability and
16 accountability.

17 (2) Develop policy recommendations, including:

18 (i) New programs to align to workforce needs.

19 (ii) Efficient and effective use of State money for
20 higher education.

21 (3) (i) Create and maintain a database for the
22 collection and analysis of postsecondary data to inform
23 the board's policy recommendations and assess the
24 progress of the strategic plan goals, including
25 postsecondary education and workforce outcomes.

26 (ii) Data collection under this paragraph shall be
27 limited and reduced to the extent feasible.

28 (iii) To the extent possible, the board shall
29 prioritize collecting information from data reported to
30 Federal and State entities and accrediting agencies.

31 (iv) Annually, the board shall report postsecondary
32 data elements collected from institutions of higher
33 education under this paragraph. The report shall be
34 transmitted to the General Assembly and posted on the
35 board's publicly accessible Internet website.

36 (v) The provisions of section 118 shall not apply to
37 data collected under this paragraph.

38 (4) Promote the coordination and cooperation of
39 institutions of higher education to increase postsecondary
40 credentials and degrees to:

41 (i) Increase broad access to high quality and
42 affordable postsecondary credentials and degrees.

43 (ii) Promote the seamless transfer of credits and
44 credentials, including increasing community college
45 transfers to institutions of higher education.

46 (iii) Utilize dual-enrollment credit to create
47 strong pathways to postsecondary education and reduce
48 time to degree.

49 (iv) Meet the economic and workforce development
50 needs of this Commonwealth with a focus on meeting the
51 needs of current and future high-priority occupations.

1 (5) In conjunction with the K-12 sector, coordinate
2 workforce development and economic development sectors, with
3 a focus on meeting the needs of high-priority occupations, to
4 develop affordable pathways to postsecondary credentials that
5 are aligned to current and future workforce and economic
6 needs.

7 (6) Establish the council to carry out the purposes of
8 Subarticle C.

9 (7) At the request of an institution of higher
10 education, assist institutions of higher education with
11 assessing their fiscal health and provide technical support.

12 (8) Recommend to the General Assembly employer
13 incentives to assist employees with attaining skills by
14 focusing on career and technical degree programs in high-
15 priority occupations.

16 (9) Develop recommendations for repurposing and reducing
17 under-utilized facilities and maximizing their use.

18 (d) Transfer of powers and duties.--

19 (1) All powers and duties of the State Board of
20 Education and the Council of Higher Education under Article
21 XIX-A shall be transferred to the board. This paragraph does
22 not apply to any application for a withdrawal of sponsorship
23 under section 1910-A filed prior to the effective date of
24 this paragraph.

25 (2) All powers and duties of the State Board of
26 Education and the Council of Higher Education under Article
27 XXVI-B related to community colleges shall be transferred to
28 the board.

29 (3) All files, records, contracts, agreements and other
30 materials which are used by the State Board of Education or
31 the Council of Higher Education in connection with the
32 powers, duties or functions exercised by the State Board of
33 Education or the Council of Higher Education related to
34 community colleges are hereby transferred to the board.

35 (4) A regulation adopted under Article XIX-A shall be
36 enforced by the board in collaboration with the State Board
37 of Education and shall continue to have the same force and
38 effect until modified or revised by the board. The board may
39 promulgate regulations in order to implement this subsection.

40 (5) The board, in consultation with the State Board of
41 Education, shall make recommendations to the Governor and
42 General Assembly no later than May 1, 2025, regarding the
43 appropriate delineation of roles and responsibilities of the
44 board, State Board of Education and department related to
45 higher education, including recommended legislation to update
46 Articles XIX-A and XXVI-B, and other related provisions of
47 this act.

48 (e) Coordination with State and local entities.--The board
49 shall:

50 (1) In consultation with the department, promote strong
51 pathways from grades K-12 through postsecondary credentials

1 and degrees.

2 (2) In consultation with the State Board of Education,
3 promote greater postsecondary access, quality and
4 affordability, including the use and quality of dual credit,
5 apprenticeships and career and technical pathways.

6 (3) In consultation with the Pennsylvania Workforce
7 Development Board and local workforce development boards,
8 support institutions of higher education to offer programs in
9 high-priority occupations and apprenticeships that meet this
10 Commonwealth's current and future workforce needs.

11 (4) In consultation with the State Board of Private
12 Licensed Schools, make legislative recommendations related to
13 the act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the
14 Private Licensed Schools Act.

15 (f) Closure of institutions of higher education.--

16 (1) No later than July 1, 2026, the board shall develop
17 procedures for an institution of higher education to follow
18 when the institution of higher education, whether or not
19 chartered in this Commonwealth, proposes taking action to
20 discontinue operations. The procedures shall include a plan
21 for the orderly closure of the institution of higher
22 education, including, but not limited to, a teach-out plan,
23 preservation and accessibility of student and administrative
24 records, and notification to employees as required by 29
25 U.S.C. Ch. 23 (relating to worker adjustment and retraining
26 notification).

27 (2) The board may, contingent on the availability of
28 funds, enter into an agreement with a third party to
29 establish a centralized repository of student and employee
30 records for an institution of higher education that closes
31 and fails to place student records into a readily accessible
32 depository. An institution of higher education proposing to
33 discontinue operations may request assistance from the board
34 relating to discontinuance of the institution of higher
35 education's operations.

36 (3) To the extent permitted by Federal and State law,
37 Commonwealth funds may be withheld from an institution of
38 higher education provided that:

39 (i) No funds may be withheld prior to the
40 institution of higher education's formal vote and
41 subsequent notification of closure.

42 (ii) No funds may be withheld from services which
43 have been previously provided or will be provided prior
44 to the date of closure.

45 (iii) No funds provided for student financial aid
46 may be withheld on the basis of this section prior to the
47 date of closure or at such time that the student is no
48 longer enrolled at the institution of higher education.

49 Section 2012-L. Annual funding request.

50 In addition to the submission required under section 610 of
51 the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The

1 Administrative Code of 1929, a public institution of higher
2 education shall provide a copy of its budget request to the
3 board.

4 Section 2013-L. Long-term strategic planning.

5 (a) Development of strategic plan.--The board shall be
6 responsible for developing a higher education strategic plan for
7 the Commonwealth which shall:

8 (1) Identify long-term, measurable goals and provide
9 strategies for implementing those goals.

10 (2) Assess the higher education needs of this
11 Commonwealth as well as each region of this Commonwealth.

12 (3) Include components required of the master plan for
13 higher education under section 2603-B(h).

14 (b) Adoption of strategic plan.--No later than September 1,
15 2025, the board shall adopt a higher education strategic plan.
16 The plan shall be reviewed and revised, as necessary, every five
17 years.

18 (c) Consultation.--In development of the strategic plan, the
19 board shall:

20 (1) Consult with and seek input from stakeholders.

21 (2) Make the strategic plan available for review and
22 public comment for a period of not less than 30 days.

23 (3) Hold at least six regional public hearings as part
24 of the public comment process under paragraph (2).

25 (d) Annual reports.--Beginning May 1, 2026, and each May 1
26 thereafter, the board shall develop an annual report which shall
27 include an update on the progress of the implementation of the
28 higher education strategic plan. As part of the first annual
29 report, the board shall include a review and make
30 recommendations related to the efficacy of the structure and
31 operation of the board.

32 (e) Transmittal of strategic plan and annual reports.--The
33 board shall post the strategic plan and annual reports on its
34 publicly accessible Internet website and transmit them to the
35 following individuals:

36 (1) The Governor.

37 (2) The General Assembly.

38 (3) The president of each institution of higher
39 education.

40 (4) The president of each bargaining unit that
41 represents employees at institutions of higher education.

42 Section 11. This act shall take effect immediately.