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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 705 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY KINKEAD, ISAACSON, DEASY, DELLOSO, FREEMAN,  
GALLOWAY, GUZMAN, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, KINSEY, MADDEN,  
NEILSON, N. NELSON, PARKER, ROZZI, SANCHEZ, SCHWEYER,  
SHUSTERMAN, STURLA, WEBSTER AND ZABEL, MARCH 1, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 1, 2021

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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," providing for associate degree for  
6 transfer programs.

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

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

12 ARTICLE XIX-I

13 Associate Degree for Transfer Programs

14 Section 1901-I. Scope of article.

15 This article relates to associate degree for transfer  
16 programs.

17 Section 1902-I. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
19 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Community college." A community college under Article XIX-  
3 A.

4 "Institution." As defined under section 2001-A.

5 Section 1903-I. Associate degree for transfer programs.

6 (a) General rule.--Beginning with the fall term of the 2021-  
7 2022 academic year, a student who earns an associate degree for  
8 transfer granted under subsection (b) shall be eligible for  
9 transfer into a baccalaureate program at an institution when the  
10 student meets both of the following requirements:

11 (1) Completion of 60 semester credit hours that are  
12 eligible for transfer to an institution, including both of  
13 the following:

14 (i) The community college's general education  
15 requirements.

16 (ii) A minimum of 18 semester credit hours in a  
17 major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community  
18 college.

19 (2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

20 (b) Associate degree for transfer.--A community college  
21 shall develop a program and grant associate degrees for transfer  
22 to students that meet the requirements under subsection (a).

23 (c) Prohibition.--A community college may not impose any  
24 requirements in addition to the requirements under this section  
25 for a student to be eligible for the associate degree for  
26 transfer and subsequent admission to an institution.

27 (d) Collaboration.--A community college may consider the  
28 articulation agreements and other agreements between the  
29 respective faculties from the affected community college and  
30 institution campuses in implementing the requirements of this

1 section.

2 (e) Credits earned at other community college.--A community  
3 college may accept credits earned at other community colleges  
4 toward the associate degree for transfer under this section.

5 Section 1904-I. Admission to institution.

6 (a) General rule.--An institution shall guarantee admission  
7 with junior status to any community college student who is  
8 granted an associate degree for transfer under section 1903-I.

9 (b) Specific majors and campuses.--Admission to an  
10 institution does not guarantee admission for a specific major or  
11 campus. An institution shall grant a student priority admission  
12 to a campus near the student's residence and to a program or  
13 major that is similar to the student's community college major  
14 or program area of emphasis, as determined by the institution  
15 campus to which the student is admitted.

16 (c) Priority.--A student admitted under this article shall  
17 receive priority over all other community college transfer  
18 students, excluding community college students who have entered  
19 into a transfer agreement between a community college and an  
20 institution prior to the effective date of this section.

21 (d) Admissions redirection process.--An institution shall  
22 develop an admissions redirection process for a student admitted  
23 under this article who applies for admission to the institution  
24 but is not accepted into the institution's campus to which the  
25 student applied.

26 Section 1905-I. Transfer process.

27 (a) Additional courses.--An institution may require a  
28 student transferring under this article to take additional  
29 courses at the institution so long as the student is not  
30 required to take any more than 60 additional semester credit

1 hours at the institution for majors requiring 120 semester  
2 credit hours. Specified majors may be exempt from this  
3 subsection upon agreement by the Board of Governors of the State  
4 System of Higher Education and a community college.

5 (b) Applicability of credits.--Community college transfer  
6 credit hours shall not be applicable to upper division  
7 requirements at the institution, unless agreed upon by the  
8 institution and a community college and the transferred credit  
9 hours do not exceed the required 60 semester credit hours  
10 required under subsection (a).

11 (c) Similar courses.--An institution may not require a  
12 student transferring under this article to repeat courses that  
13 are similar to those taken at the community college that counted  
14 toward the associate degree for transfer granted under this  
15 article.

16 Section 1906-I. Report.

17 (a) General rule.--At the end of the 2021-2022 academic  
18 year, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall review  
19 and provide a report with an update on the implementation of  
20 this article to the following:

21 (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
22 Education Committee of the Senate.

23 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
24 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

25 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
26 Finance Committee of the Senate.

27 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
28 Finance Committee of the House of Representatives.

29 (b) Contents of report.--The report under subsection (a)  
30 shall include the following:

1           (1) The outcomes of implementation of this article,  
2 including, but not limited to, the following:

3           (i) The number and percentage of community college  
4 students who earned an associate degree for transfer and  
5 transferred to an institution under this article.

6           (ii) The average number of semester credit hours it  
7 takes a community college student earning an associate  
8 degree for transfer under this article to transfer to and  
9 graduate from an institution, as compared to the average  
10 number of semester credit hours it took community college  
11 transfer students prior to enactment of this article, and  
12 compared to students using other transfer processes  
13 available.

14           (iii) Student progression and completion rates.

15           (iv) Other relevant indicators of student success.

16           (v) The degree to which the requirements for an  
17 associate degree for transfer take into account existing  
18 articulation agreements and the degree to which community  
19 colleges facilitate the acceptance of credits between  
20 community colleges.

21           (vi) The degree to which institutions were able to  
22 accommodate students admitted under this article to a  
23 campus of their choice and a major that is similar to the  
24 student's community college major.

25           (2) Recommendations for statutory changes necessary to  
26 facilitate the goal of a clear and transparent transfer  
27 process.

28       Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.