HOUSE BILL
No. 2939 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY ULLMAN, LONGIETTI, SHUSTERMAN, HILL-EVANS, DRISCOLL, YOUNGBLOOD, ROEBUCK, GALLOWAY, SANCHEZ, CIRESI, WILLIAMS, WEBSTER, SCHLOSSBERG, HOWARD AND KENYATTA, OCTOBER 15, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 15, 2020

AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," providing for COVID-19 Public Higher Education Support Program.

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

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

ARTICLE XX-K

COVID-19 PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Section 2001-K. Definitions.

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

"COVID" or "COVID-19." Coronavirus disease 2019, also referred to as 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease.

"Current fiscal year." The fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending July 30, 2021.

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

"Eligible institutions of higher education." Any of the following:

(1) The Pennsylvania State University.
(2) The University Of Pittsburgh.
(3) Temple University.
(4) Lincoln University.
(5) The Thaddeus Stevens College Of Technology.
(6) The Pennsylvania College Of Technology.
(5) Community colleges, as defined section 1901-A.

"Federal funds." Money received by the Commonwealth from the Federal Government.

Section 2002-K. Establishment.

The COVID-19 Public Higher Education Support Program is established within the department to assist public institutions of higher education that have not received appropriations for COVID relief during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Section 2003-K. Distribution.

Money appropriated for the program shall be distributed by the department to eligible institutions of higher education as follows:

(1) Multiply:

(i) the most recent 12-month cumulative unduplicated
headcount enrollment of students enrolled for credit for each eligible institution reported to the United States Department Of Education; by
(ii) the amount appropriated for the program.

(2) Divide:
(i) the product under paragraph (1); by
(ii) the most recent 12-month cumulative unduplicated headcount enrollment of students enrolled for credit for all eligible institutions.

Section 2004-K. Duties of department.
The department shall perform the following:
(1) Collect data from eligible institutions as necessary to implement section 2003-K.
(2) Distribute funds to eligible institutions of higher education on or before October 15, 2020.

Section 2005-K. Use of funds.
Eligible institutions of higher education shall use funds provided under this article to address necessary costs to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Section 2006-K. Appropriation.
The sum of $100,000,000 in Federal funds is appropriated from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account to the department for the current fiscal year to carry out the provisions of this article.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.