

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 203 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, FONTANA, GORDNER, KASUNIC AND
TARTAGLIONE, JANUARY 20, 2011

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 20, 2011

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 and for the Transfer
7 and Articulation Oversight Committee; providing for
8 participation by State-related institutions and for
9 retroactivity; and making a related repeal.

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:

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

21 (2) Establish and maintain records and data detailing

1 the credits transferred to and received from other public
2 institutions of higher education as the department may
3 prescribe.

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

9 (4) Agree to accept for transfer foundation courses
10 determined to meet equivalency standards under section 2004-
11 C(c) (2).

12 (a.1) Completion of second phase.--Each public institution
13 of higher education shall agree to accept with full junior
14 standing the associate of arts or associate of science degree
15 into a parallel baccalaureate program as outlined under section
16 2004-C(c) (2.1), (2.2), (2.3) and (2.4) by the timelines
17 established by the transfer and articulation oversight
18 committee, but no later than December 31, 2012. For the purposes
19 of this subsection, an associate of arts or associate of science
20 degree is a degree designed primarily for transfer to a
21 baccalaureate institution and which contains a minimum of 60
22 credits.

23 (b) Reporting requirements.--

24 (1) A public institution of higher education shall
25 submit to the department a series of interim reports
26 outlining the actions that the public institution of higher
27 education has undertaken or intends to undertake to comply
28 with subsection (a), which shall be filed December 31, 2006,
29 June 30, 2007, and December 31, 2007.

30 (2) Each public institution of higher education shall

1 submit to the department interim reports outlining the
2 actions that the public institution of higher education has
3 undertaken or intends to undertake to comply with subsection
4 (a.1), which shall be filed by December 31, 2011.

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

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

8 * * *

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

11 * * *

12 (2.1) Consult with the department on a process and
13 timeline, subject to approval by the department, to identify
14 the associate of arts or associate of science degree aligned
15 with the graduation requirements of the parallel
16 baccalaureate degree in all public institutions of higher
17 education in consultation with faculty and personnel.

18 (2.2) Identify associate of arts or associate of science
19 degree programs for transfer with full junior standing into a
20 parallel baccalaureate degree in consultation with faculty
21 and personnel in those degree programs by December 31, 2011.

22 (2.3) Identify modifications that may be required in
23 existing associate or baccalaureate degrees to satisfy
24 external accreditation or licensure requirements in
25 consultation with faculty and personnel. Approved
26 modifications shall recognize all competencies attained
27 within either the associate or baccalaureate programs.

28 (2.4) Define requirements, in consultation with faculty
29 and personnel, for education degrees, including early
30 childhood education degrees, leading to certification to be

1 included in an associate degree and to be accepted for
2 transfer with full junior standing into a parallel
3 baccalaureate degree program.

4 * * *

5 Section 3. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

6 Section 2006.1-C. Participation by State-related institutions.

7 (a) Identification.--Each State-related institution shall
8 identify 30 credit hours of course content from equivalent
9 courses identified under this article that it will accept from a
10 student accepted for transfer from an institution of higher
11 education participating in this article. A State-related
12 institution shall count a course in the same manner that it
13 would count the same or equivalent course if taken by a student
14 at the State-related institution.

15 (b) Posting.--Each State-related institution shall make the
16 information identified under subsection (a) available to the
17 department for posting on the department's publicly accessible
18 Internet website.

19 (c) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be
20 construed to do any of the following:

21 (1) Require a State-related institution to apply a
22 course to graduation or degree requirements if that course or
23 its equivalent course would not be applied to graduation or
24 degree requirements if taken at the State-related
25 institution.

26 (2) Infringe on a State-related institution's sole
27 authority to accept a student for transfer, to determine
28 acceptance into a major, to determine the campus assignment
29 of the student or to determine how many and which credit
30 hours shall apply for the transfer student toward the

1 completion of a degree. The manner in which accepted courses
2 apply toward completion of a degree and whether they are
3 counted for general education, major or free elective credit
4 shall be subject to the requirements established by the
5 accepting State-related institution for each individual major
6 or program of study.

7 (3) Prohibit a State-related institution's ability to
8 enter into discussions with the department to increase the
9 number of credits under subsection (a).

10 Section 4. Repeals are as follows:

11 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeals under
12 paragraph (2) are necessary to effectuate the following:

13 (i) The addition of sections 2004-C(c)(2.1), (2.2),
14 (2.3), (2.4) and (2.5) and 2006.1-C of the act.

15 (ii) The amendment of section 2002-C of the act.

16 (2) Sections 1737-J, 1737.1-J, 1737-L and 1737.1-L of
17 the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The
18 Fiscal Code, are repealed.

19 Section 5. This act shall apply retroactively to October 9,
20 2009.

21 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.