

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1508 Session of
2012INTRODUCED BY PICCOLA, VANCE, CORMAN, M. WHITE, ALLOWAY, SMUCKER
AND FOLMER, MAY 7, 2012

SENATOR PICCOLA, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, JUNE 19, 2012

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 community colleges, further
6 providing for financial program and reimbursement of
7 payments; ESTABLISHING THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
8 AFFORDABILITY TASK FORCE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;
9 AND PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND DUTIES AND FOR
10 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.

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

13 Section 1. Section 1913-A(a) of the act of March 10, 1949
14 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
15 amended June 7, 1993 (P.L.49, No.16), is amended to read:

16 Section 1913-A. Financial Program; Reimbursement of
17 Payments.--(a) [The] (1) Except as otherwise provided in
18 paragraph (2), the plan submitted by the local sponsor shall set
19 forth a financial program for the operation of the community
20 college. The plan shall provide that the local sponsor shall
21 appropriate or provide to the community college an amount at
22 least equal to the community college's annual operating costs

1 less the student tuition as determined in section 1908-A(a) less
2 the Commonwealth's payment as determined in subsection (b) (1) of
3 this section. The plan shall also provide that one-half of the
4 annual capital expenses shall be appropriated or provided by the
5 local sponsor to the community college. The local sponsor's
6 appropriation for annual operating costs and annual capital
7 expenses may in part be represented by real or personal property
8 or services made available to the community college. The plan
9 shall indicate whether the appropriation shall come from general
10 revenues, loan funds, special tax levies or from other sources,
11 including student tuitions.

12 (2) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1),
13 for a community college that is sponsored by one or more school
14 districts, has an enrollment head count in excess of 20,000 and
15 consists of more than four campuses that are approved by both
16 the Department of Education and the Middle States Association of
17 Colleges and Schools, the plan submitted by the local sponsor
18 shall set forth a financial program for the operation of the
19 community college and shall provide that the local sponsor shall
20 appropriate or provide to the community college for the
21 community college's annual operating costs and annual capital
22 expenses an amount negotiated by the governing body of the local
23 sponsor and the community college, provided that the amount
24 negotiated shall not exceed the sum of:

25 (A) an amount at least equal to the community college's
26 annual operating costs less the student tuition as determined in
27 section 1908-A(a) less the Commonwealth's payment as determined
28 in subsection (b) (1); and

29 (B) one-half of the annual capital expenses of the community
30 college.

1 (ii) The local sponsor's appropriation for annual operating
2 costs and annual capital expenses may in part be represented by
3 real or personal property or services made available to the
4 community college. The plan shall indicate whether the
5 appropriation shall come from general revenues, loan funds,
6 special tax levies or from other sources, including student
7 tuitions.

8 (iii) For purposes of this paragraph, the term "enrollment
9 head count" shall mean the number of students enrolled on a
10 full-time or part-time basis at a community college in the
11 immediately preceding fall semester.

12 * * *

13 SECTION 2. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

14 SECTION 1919-A. PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY
15 TASK FORCE.--(A) A TASK FORCE IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE
16 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON THE AFFORDABILITY OF COMMUNITY
17 COLLEGE EDUCATION.

18 (B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING
19 MEMBERS:

20 (1) THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, WHO SHALL ACT AS CHAIRPERSON
21 OF THE TASK FORCE.

22 (2) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
23 INDUSTRY'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE
24 SECRETARY OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

25 (3) FIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, INCLUDING A
26 COLLEGE PRESIDENT, A MEMBER OF A BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF A
27 COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND A CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF A COMMUNITY
28 COLLEGE, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION FOR
29 COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

30 (4) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO BE

1 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

2 (5) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE
3 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

4 (6) THREE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WHO REPRESENT COUNTIES THAT
5 SPONSOR A LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY
6 COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

7 (7) TWO MEMBERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS THAT SPONSOR A LOCAL
8 COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL
9 BOARDS ASSOCIATION.

10 (8) TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WHO
11 ARE MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

12 (C) THE TASK FORCE SHALL EXAMINE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
13 REGARDING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LOCAL SPONSORSHIP SHARE AND
14 INSTRUCTIONAL COSTS OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES WITHIN THIS
15 COMMONWEALTH AND THE LONG-TERM AFFORDABILITY OF A COMMUNITY
16 COLLEGE EDUCATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS.

17 (D) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND
18 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF
19 THE SENATE, THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF
20 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE
21 OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE
22 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE CHAIR AND MINORITY
23 CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES. THIS REPORT SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN ONE
25 HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) DAYS AFTER THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK
26 FORCE.

27 (E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE
28 CHAIR IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

29 (F) TASK FORCE MEMBERS SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR
30 THEIR SERVICES BUT SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR ALL NECESSARY TRAVEL

1 AND OTHER REASONABLE EXPENSES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
2 PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES AS MEMBERS.

3 (G) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE
4 SUPPORT, OFFICE SPACE AND ANY OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
5 REQUIRED BY THE TASK FORCE TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS
6 SECTION.

7 Section 2 3. This act shall take effect ~~in 60 days~~
8 IMMEDIATELY.

