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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1022 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, PHILLIPS-HILL, SCHLOSSBERG, SOLOMON,  
HILL-EVANS, GROVE, TALLMAN, DONATUCCI, DAVIS, MILLARD,  
SCHWEYER, TOOHIL, V. BROWN, LONGIETTI, MURT, EMRICK, KINSEY,  
MCNEILL, FREEMAN, WARREN, WATSON AND ORTITAY, MARCH 28, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 28, 2017

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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," in transfers of credits between  
6 institutions of higher education, further providing for  
7 definitions, for duties of public institutions of higher  
8 education and for transfer and articulation oversight  
9 committee.

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

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

15 Section 2001-C. Definitions.

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

19 "Advanced Placement program (AP)." A program authorized by  
20 the college board that allows a student to study college-level

1 subjects while enrolled in high school and to receive advanced  
2 placement and college credit for earning a qualified score on  
3 the course-related Advanced Placement exam.

4 \* \* \*

5 "College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)." A set of  
6 standardized tests developed by the college board for various  
7 subjects, and on which a qualifying score can be used to earn  
8 college credit.

9 \* \* \*

10 "Credit for prior learning." College-level credit granted  
11 toward the award of a postsecondary degree or certificate for  
12 experiential learning that can be demonstrated through various  
13 means of assessment to be the equivalent of learning gained  
14 through formal collegiate instruction, including an Advanced  
15 Placement exam, International Baccalaureate exam, a College-  
16 Level Examination Program exam and Dantes Subject Standardized  
17 Tests.

18 "Dantes Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)." A set of subject  
19 exams approved by the American Council on Education that tests  
20 knowledge of both lower-level and upper-level college material.

21 \* \* \*

22 "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB)." An  
23 academically challenging two-year pre-college diploma program  
24 comprised of three core requirements and six academic subject  
25 areas with final examinations that prepare students 16 to 19  
26 years of age for higher education and life in a global society.

27 \* \* \*

28 Section 2. Section 2002-C of the act is amended by adding a  
29 subsection to read:

30 Section 2002-C. Duties of public institutions of higher

1 education.

2 \* \* \*

3 (d) Credit for prior learning.--Each public institution of  
4 higher education shall do all of the following:

5 (1) Adopt and make public uniform standards for  
6 determining academic credit for prior learning as outlined in  
7 paragraph (4) within 18 months of the effective date of this  
8 subsection.

9 (2) Agree to award academic credit for prior learning  
10 that is determined to meet the standards established under  
11 section 2004-C(c)(6) and apply the credit toward graduation  
12 unless prohibited by external accreditation or licensure.

13 (3) Submit to the department interim reports outlining  
14 the actions that the public institution of higher education  
15 has undertaken or intends to undertake to comply with  
16 paragraphs (1) and (2).

17 (4) As a member of the Transfer and Articulation  
18 Oversight Committee established in section 2004-C:

19 (i) Consult with the department, faculty and  
20 personnel on a process and timeline, subject to approval  
21 by the department, to develop uniform standards for  
22 determining academic credit for prior learning.

23 (ii) Develop and implement uniform standards for  
24 determining academic credit for prior learning, in  
25 consultation with faculty and personnel.

26 (iii) Participate in submitting a status report to  
27 the department, the Education Committee of the Senate and  
28 the Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

29 (5) For each academic year, report to the department all  
30 of the following:

1           (i) The total number of students awarded credits for  
2 Advanced Placement Program, International Baccalaureate  
3 Diploma Program, College-Level Examination Program exams  
4 and Dantes Subject Standardized Tests, if available.

5           (ii) The total number of credits awarded to students  
6 for Advanced Placement Program, International  
7 Baccalaureate Diploma Program, College-Level Examination  
8 Program exams and Dantes Subject Standardized Tests, if  
9 available.

10           (iii) The number of credits awarded to matriculating  
11 students who present Advanced Placement Program,  
12 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, College-  
13 Level Examination Program exams and Dantes Subject  
14 Standardized Tests that meet the standards established  
15 under section 2004-C(c)(6) and, of those credits, the  
16 number of credits applied toward major requirements and  
17 the number of credits applied toward elective  
18 requirements.

19           (iv) Any other information related to awarding of  
20 credit for prior learning as requested by the department  
21 or the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee,  
22 including the usability of transfer credits.

23       Section 3. Section 2004-C(c) of the act is amended by adding  
24 a paragraph to read:

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

26       \* \* \*

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

29       \* \* \*

30       (6) Within one year of the effective date of this

1 paragraph, develop and implement uniform standards for  
2 awarding academic credit for prior learning in consultation  
3 with faculty and personnel for public institutions of higher  
4 education and institutions that elect to participate under  
5 section 2006-C.

6 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.