
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 841 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY KLUNK, SOLOMON, FEE, RYAN, CUTLER, CONKLIN,
PICKETT, JAMES, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, STAATS, CHARLTON, NEILSON,
BERNSTINE, MILLARD, A. DAVIS, R. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE,
J. McNEILL, LONGIETTI, BARBIN, SAYLOR, SCHWEYER, KEEFER,
WARD, MACKENZIE, ORTITAY, MARSICO, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
B. MILLER, HILL-EVANS, DRISCOLL AND D. COSTA, APRIL 18, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, APRIL 18, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass, and the
2 President of the United States to sign, legislation that will
3 make apprenticeships more affordable for individuals seeking
4 a skills-based education.

5 WHEREAS, The current PA 529 College Savings Program applies
6 to qualified college expenses like tuition, books, room and
7 board and other learning technologies; and

8 WHEREAS, PA 529 College Savings Plans make college more
9 affordable for middle-class families by allowing families to
10 finance their education tax free; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2015 and 2016, more than 24,000 Pennsylvanians
12 benefited from \$84 million in earnings from the PA 529
13 Guaranteed Savings Plan (GSP) and the PA 529 Investment Plan
14 (IP) college saving plans; and

15 WHEREAS, While PA 529 College Savings Plans help individuals
16 seeking a college education, they do not always help those who
17 have sought careers in the trades; and

1 WHEREAS, States are limited in how far they can depart from
2 Federal regulations governing college savings plans; and

3 WHEREAS, If a state allows students to use PA 529 College
4 Savings Plan distributions at a nonqualifying institution, as
5 determined by the Internal Revenue Service, the earnings portion
6 of the distribution is taxed and subject to a 10% penalty; and

7 WHEREAS, A qualifying institution includes traditional four-
8 year universities as well as community colleges, vocational
9 schools and trade schools but does not include an apprenticeship
10 established by a group of businesses with no ties to a qualified
11 institution; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians need the ability to save for the
13 education and training specific to 21st century jobs, whether
14 they are enrolled in college, attending a short-term training
15 program or getting a license or credential for a specific trade
16 or industry; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite the value of an education through
18 apprenticeship, the law today does not give enrollees the same
19 chance to use tax advantage-funds for tools, textbooks and
20 equipment as is given to college students; and

21 WHEREAS, H.R. 3395 and S. 1822 enable individuals enrolled in
22 apprenticeship programs to use earnings from a federally-
23 approved 529 college savings plan to purchase tools and
24 equipment; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
26 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
27 States to pass, and the President of the United States to sign,
28 legislation that will make apprenticeships more affordable for
29 individuals seeking a skills-based education; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to

1 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of
2 each house of Congress and each member of Congress from
3 Pennsylvania.