
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2395 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY O'MARA, HANBIDGE, SCHLOSSBERG, N. NELSON, SANCHEZ,
DELLOSO, HARRIS, ISAACSON, HOWARD, KIM, INNAMORATO, WARREN,
CIRESI, D. WILLIAMS, FREEMAN, HOHENSTEIN, WELBY, SHUSTERMAN,
PARKER, McCLINTON, DRISCOLL, GUENST AND BOYLE, MARCH 10, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 10, 2022

AN ACT

1 Requiring disclosure of mandatory fees by institutions of higher
2 education.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Know What You
7 Pay For - The Student Fee Transparency Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

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

14 "Institution of higher education." Any of the following:

15 (1) A community college operating under Article XIX-A of
16 the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the
17 Public School Code of 1949.

1 (2) A university within the State System of Higher
2 Education.

3 (3) The Pennsylvania State University.

4 (4) The University of Pittsburgh.

5 (5) Temple University.

6 (6) Lincoln University.

7 (7) The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

8 (8) Any other institution that is designated as "State-
9 related" by the Commonwealth.

10 (9) An accredited private or independent college or
11 university.

12 (10) A private licensed school as defined in the act of
13 December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the Private
14 Licensed Schools Act.

15 "Mandatory fee." Any of the following:

16 (1) Mandatory enrollment fee.

17 (2) Mandatory incidental fee.

18 (3) Mandatory student-initiated fee.

19 (4) Any other fee a student must pay as a condition of
20 attending an institution of higher education that is not
21 directly applied to a student's tuition, room or board fees.

22 "Online student portal." A secured internal Internet service
23 administered by an institution of higher education on which a
24 student of the institution of higher education can access
25 personal academic, financial and other information related to
26 attending the institution of higher education.

27 Section 3. Requirements.

28 An institution of higher education shall prominently display
29 a description of every mandatory fee charged by the institution
30 of higher education and shall publish on each institution of

1 higher education's publicly accessible Internet website and
2 online student portal prior to the term for which the mandatory
3 fee will be charged and included in any tuition bill. The amount
4 of the mandatory fee must be accompanied by a description of:

- 5 (1) The general purpose of the mandatory fee.
- 6 (2) How the mandatory fee will be allocated and used.
- 7 (3) How the mandatory fee will be collected, the
8 duration of time for which the fee will be assessed and the
9 beginning and end dates for collecting the mandatory fee.

10 Section 4. Reporting fees.

11 Beginning November 15, 2022, and by November 15 of each year
12 thereafter, each institution of higher education shall report to
13 the department on the institution of higher education's
14 collection of mandatory fees during the prior academic year. The
15 report must include:

- 16 (1) The total amount of mandatory fees collected.
- 17 (2) The amount of mandatory fees allocated to each use
18 or recipient.

19 Section 5. Reporting to the department.

20 Beginning on June 30, 2022, and by June 30 of each year
21 thereafter, each institution of higher education shall report to
22 the department the measures taken to display the information
23 required under this act.

24 Section 6. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect immediately.