



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 1205

PRINTERS NO. 1944

PRIME SPONSOR: Folmer

COST / (SAVINGS)

| FUND | FY 2013/14 | FY 2014/15 |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| General Fund | \$0 | \$0 |

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 1205 amends Title 24 (Education) concerning certification of institutions, change of designation to university, and change of designation to college. It would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS:

Section 6503 of Title 24 (Education), concerning certification of institutions, is amended to allow seminaries to offer additional degrees not specified in their certificates of authority, or to institute additional majors or programs, pursuant to the requirements of the section. Currently Section 6503 only applies to colleges and universities.

Title 24 (Education) is amended by adding a section concerning a change of designation to university. It is proposed as Section 6503.1. This section establishes a process whereby a private nonprofit institution holding a certificate of authority that authorizes the conferral, at a minimum, of bachelor's degrees or graduate degrees and using the designation of "college" may apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to use the designation of "university." The institution must submit to PDE a letter from the president of the college providing information and assurances that the institution has met the requirements for university status outlined in this new section. The institution seeking the change in designation must include with the letter any and all documentation necessary to verify the representations it contains.

If PDE determines the letter complies with the requirements in this new section, PDE will accept the letter and publish notice of its acceptance in the Pennsylvania Bulletin along with the effective date of the change in designation. If PDE determines the letter does not comply, it will reject the letter and provide the institution with a basis for the rejection. The college is then free to submit a corrected or new letter for review by PDE at any time.

This legislation also amends Title 24 (Education) by adding a section concerning change of designation to college, and proposed as Section 6507.1. This section provides that a private, nonprofit institution holding a certificate of authority that authorizes the conferral, at a

minimum, of associate degrees in specialized technology, and holding accreditation from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges that uses the designation "trade school" may use the designation "college."

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds. Any new PDE administrative responsibilities to review letters from colleges seeking university designations should be minimal and can be handled within its current budget.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 9, 2014

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.