



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 897

PRINTER'S NO. 1676

PRIME SPONSOR: Kinkead

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

### SUMMARY:

This bill would guarantee admission of an undergraduate student transferring from a community college into a parallel program at a university of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE).

### ANALYSIS:

The operative changes made by the bill apply to transfer between “public institutions of higher education,” which is a defined term within Article XX-C of the Public School Code of 1949. The term is defined as community colleges and PASSHE universities.

These institutions will apply all college level credits to fulfill degree requirements towards parallel baccalaureate degree programs. Students holding an associate degree from a community college or PASSHE university shall be granted full junior standing towards the baccalaureate degree program, and will only have another 60 credits to complete a degree (unless there are specific accreditation, licensure or certification standards). All students will have the same admission-to-major standards.

Transfer students from a community college or another PASSHE university with an associate degree will have guaranteed admission to a parallel baccalaureate degree programs, with limited exceptions. Starting in spring 2024, undergraduate students from a community college will have priority admission into upper division courses over out-of-state students.

The bill addresses reporting requirements and creates a dispute resolution committee at the Department of Education to handle disputes over transfer of credits.

The bill takes effect in 60 days.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education anticipates minimal fiscal impact from the bill. The system universities would need to comply with reporting requirements, adjust IT systems and other administrative work to provide the priority enrollment starting in spring 2024, and respond to information requests from the dispute resolution committee. These duties can be accommodated within existing staff resources. The university may need to compensate faculty if they serve on the dispute resolution committee.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

**DATE:** June 23, 2023

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