

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1448 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, MILLARD, GREINER, PICKETT, B. MILLER, SOLOMON, HICKERNELL, JAMES, TOPPER, FEE, V. BROWN, KAUFFMAN, PEIFER, OBERLANDER, PHILLIPS-HILL, WARD, SAYLOR, ROEBUCK, HILL-EVANS, ZIMMERMAN, MICCARELLI AND KORTZ, MAY 25, 2017

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, JANUARY 23, 2018

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," providing for higher education  
6 accountability and transparency.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an  
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XX-H

13 HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

14 AND TRANSPARENCY

15 Section 2001-H. 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:

1 "College Navigator website." The College Navigator website  
2 or its successor website operated by the United States  
3 Department of Education and required pursuant to 20 U.S.C. §  
4 1015a (relating to transparency in college tuition for  
5 consumers).

6 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
7 Commonwealth.

8 "Graduation rates." The percentages of full-time  
9 undergraduate students enrolled for credit toward a degree,  
10 diploma, certificate or other formal credential who are awarded  
11 a degree, diploma or certificate within each of the following:

12 (1) 100% of the normal completion time for the student's  
13 program.

14 (2) 125% of the normal completion time for the student's  
15 program.

16 (3) 150% of the normal completion time for the student's  
17 program.

18 "Institution of higher education." The term includes any of  
19 the following:

20 (1) A community college operating under Article XIX-A.

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

23 (3) The Pennsylvania State University, the University of  
24 Pittsburgh, Temple University, Lincoln University or any  
25 other institution designated as State-related by the  
26 Commonwealth.

27 (4) The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

28 (5) A COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE XIX-G.

<--

29 ~~(5)~~ (6) An institution of higher education which is  
30 operated not for profit, located in and incorporated or

<--

1 chartered by the Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees  
2 as set forth in 24 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to  
3 confer degrees) and is ~~designated as a "college" or~~ <--  
4 "university" as provided for by the standards and  
5 qualifications prescribed by the State Board of Education  
6 under 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65 (relating to private colleges,  
7 universities and seminaries).

8 ~~(6)~~ (7) A private school licensed under the act of <--  
9 December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the Private  
10 Licensed Schools Act.

11 (8) A FOREIGN CORPORATION APPROVED TO OPERATE AN <--  
12 EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISE UNDER 22 PA. CODE CH. 36 (RELATING TO  
13 FOREIGN CORPORATION STANDARDS).

14 "Net tuition and fees." The average total cost of attendance  
15 minus the average amount of grant or scholarship aid awarded to  
16 a first-time, full-time undergraduate student enrolled for  
17 credit toward a degree, diploma, certificate or other formal  
18 credential from the Federal Government, the Commonwealth or the  
19 institution of higher education.

20 "PHEAA." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
21 Agency.

22 "Retention rate." The percentage of first-year, full-time  
23 undergraduate students enrolled for credit toward a degree,  
24 diploma, certificate or other formal credential who continue to  
25 be enrolled at an institution of higher education in the  
26 following school year.

27 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area  
28 vocational-technical school, charter school, cyber charter  
29 school, or regional charter school.

30 "Total debt." The average per-student cumulative principal

1 borrowed from a loan program, including Federal and State loan  
2 programs, institutional loans and private alternate loans made  
3 by a bank or lender.

4 Section 2002-H. College Navigator and High Priority  
5 Occupations.

6 (a) Duties of department.--The department shall make  
7 available on the department's publicly accessible Internet  
8 website, in a single location, information that includes, at a  
9 minimum, the following:

10 (1) A direct link to the College Navigator website with  
11 a description of the uses and features of the College  
12 Navigator website.

13 (2) A direct link to the High Priority Occupations  
14 publicly accessible Internet website of the Department of  
15 Labor and Industry with a description of what high priority  
16 occupations are and how they are identified.

17 (b) Duty of PHEAA.--PHEAA shall include a link on its  
18 publicly accessible Internet website to information contained on  
19 the department's website under subsection (a).

20 (c) Duty of school entities.--Each school entity shall  
21 annually provide the information required under subsection (a)  
22 to students in grades nine through twelve.

23 Section 2003-H. Comparison tool.

24 (a) Duty of department.--If the United States Department of  
25 Education discontinues the publication of the College Navigator  
26 website, the department shall make available on the department's  
27 publicly accessible Internet website a search tool that allows  
28 an individual to compare institutions of higher education that  
29 meet certain criteria selected by the individual, including the  
30 offering of a particular major or program of study.

1 (b) Requirements.--The comparison tool required under this  
2 section must:

3 (1) Be accessible from the department's publicly  
4 accessible Internet website.

5 (2) Allow a user to identify and compare institutions of  
6 higher education by the following:

7 (i) Programs of study available.

8 (ii) Name.

9 (iii) Physical address.

10 (iv) Total enrollment for the previous academic  
11 year.

12 (v) Net tuition and fees per year based on the  
13 previous academic year.

14 (vi) Percentages of students receiving:

15 (A) Pell grants.

16 (B) Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity  
17 grants.

18 (C) Academic Competitiveness grants.

19 (D) National Science and Mathematics Access to  
20 Retain Talent grants.

21 (E) Teacher Education Assistance for College and  
22 Higher Education grants.

23 (vii) Average total debt borrowed for undergraduate  
24 study.

25 (viii) Graduation and retention rates, including  
26 information on average time, in years, to attainment of a  
27 degree, diploma, certificate or other formal credential  
28 for a full-time student.

29 (ix) Percentage of undergraduate students who have  
30 defaulted on their Federal student loans within three

1           years of entering repayment.

2           (x) Status as a nonprofit institution or for-profit  
3           institution.

4           (3) Be accessible to the public without requiring  
5           registration or use of a user name, password or other user  
6           identification.

7           (4) Include a link to the publicly accessible Internet  
8           website of the Department of Labor and Industry and a link to  
9           the publicly accessible Internet website of each of the  
10           institutions of higher education selected.

11           (5) Include a direct link to the High Priority  
12           Occupations publicly accessible Internet website of the  
13           Department of Labor and Industry with a description of what  
14           high priority occupations are and how they are identified.

15           (c) Chart.--The comparison tool required under this section  
16           must generate a comparison chart in a grid format that:

17           (1) Lists the institutions of higher education that  
18           match a user's search criteria.

19           (2) Provides information for each institution of higher  
20           education listed as outlined in subsection (b) (2).

21           (d) Duty of institutions.--If the department is required to  
22           develop the comparison tool under subsection (a), each  
23           institution of higher education shall provide the information  
24           listed in this section, as available, to the department not  
25           later than January 1 of each year. If the information required  
26           under this subsection is available in an institution of higher  
27           education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System  
28           report, the institution of higher education may comply with the  
29           reporting requirements of this subsection by sending an  
30           electronic copy of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data

1 System report to the department. The department shall update the  
2 comparison tool as soon as practicable after receiving  
3 information from each institution of higher education.

4 (e) Website.--PHEAA shall include a link on its publicly  
5 accessible Internet website to the comparison tool required  
6 under this section.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.