
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2939 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY ULLMAN, LONGIETTI, SHUSTERMAN, HILL-EVANS,
DRISCOLL, YOUNGBLOOD, ROEBUCK, GALLOWAY, SANCHEZ, CIRESI,
WILLIAMS, WEBSTER, SCHLOSSBERG, HOWARD AND KENYATTA,
OCTOBER 15, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 15, 2020

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 COVID-19 Public Higher
6 Education Support Program.

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-K

13 COVID-19 PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

14 Section 2001-K. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this article
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "COVID" or "COVID-19." Coronavirus disease 2019, also
19 referred to as 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease.

1 "COVID-19 Response Restricted Account." The COVID-19
2 Response Restricted Account established under section 110-C of
3 the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as the Fiscal
4 Code.

5 "Current fiscal year." The fiscal year beginning July 1,
6 2020, and ending July 30, 2021.

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

9 "Eligible institutions of higher education." Any of the
10 following:

11 (1) The Pennsylvania State University.

12 (2) The University Of Pittsburgh.

13 (3) Temple University.

14 (4) Lincoln University.

15 (5) The Thaddeus Stevens College Of Technology.

16 (6) The Pennsylvania College Of Technology.

17 (5) Community colleges, as defined section 1901-A.

18 "Federal funds." Money received by the Commonwealth from the
19 Federal Government.

20 Section 2002-K. Establishment.

21 The COVID-19 Public Higher Education Support Program is
22 established within the department to assist public institutions
23 of higher education that have not received appropriations for
24 COVID relief during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

25 Section 2003-K. Distribution.

26 Money appropriated for the program shall be distributed by
27 the department to eligible institutions of higher education as
28 follows:

29 (1) Multiply:

30 (i) the most recent 12-month cumulative unduplicated

1 headcount enrollment of students enrolled for credit for
2 each eligible institution reported to the United States
3 Department Of Education; by

4 (ii) the amount appropriated for the program.

5 (2) Divide:

6 (i) the product under paragraph (1); by

7 (ii) the most recent 12-month cumulative
8 unduplicated headcount enrollment of students enrolled
9 for credit for all eligible institutions.

10 Section 2004-K. Duties of department.

11 The department shall perform the following:

12 (1) Collect data from eligible institutions as necessary
13 to implement section 2003-K.

14 (2) Distribute funds to eligible institutions of higher
15 education on or before October 15, 2020.

16 Section 2005-K. Use of funds.

17 Eligible institutions of higher education shall use funds
18 provided under this article to address necessary costs to
19 respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

20 Section 2006-K. Appropriation.

21 The sum of \$100,000,000 in Federal funds is appropriated from
22 the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account to the department for
23 the current fiscal year to carry out the provisions of this
24 article.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.