
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 209 Session of
2001

INTRODUCED BY RHOADES, M. WHITE, ROBBINS, COSTA, BELL,
TOMLINSON, MUSTO, STOUT, LAVALLE, LEMMOND, BOSCOLA, DENT,
BODACK AND TARTAGLIONE, JANUARY 31, 2001

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 31, 2001

AN ACT

1 Establishing a program within the Department of Education to
2 provide grants to engineering degree-granting schools to
3 assist in the acquisition of new engineering equipment or the
4 upgrading of existing engineering equipment that is necessary
5 to provide students with the courses required to obtain a
6 degree in engineering.

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

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Engineering
11 School Equipment Act.

12 Section 2. Definitions.

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

16 "Board." The board of directors of the Ben Franklin/IRC
17 Partnership under section 3 of the act of July 2, 1993 (P.L.439,
18 No.64), known as the Ben Franklin/IRC Partnership Act.

19 "Department." The Department of Education of the

1 Commonwealth.

2 "Engineering degree-granting school." An institution of
3 higher education which offers curriculum in engineering or
4 engineering technology which has been approved by the
5 Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) and is
6 recognized as such by the State Registration Board for
7 Professional Engineers.

8 "Equipment." Basic instructional equipment of an engineering
9 nature used in the teaching of undergraduate or graduate
10 engineering or engineering technology.

11 "Full-time equivalent engineering student." The enrollment
12 in baccalaureate and graduate programs of engineering schools
13 expressed in terms of full-time students as determined by the
14 department.

15 Section 3. Engineering equipment acquisition and upgrade.

16 (a) Program.--There is established within the department a
17 program to provide grants to engineering degree-granting
18 schools. The program shall be administered by the board. Funds
19 provided through this program shall be used exclusively for the
20 acquisition of new engineering equipment and the upgrading of
21 existing engineering equipment that is necessary to provide
22 students with the courses required to obtain a baccalaureate or
23 graduate engineering degree. The board shall:

24 (1) Promulgate such policies, develop such forms and
25 institute such procedures as may be necessary to implement
26 this act.

27 (2) Allocate to each engineering school funds for which
28 it is eligible under this act.

29 (3) Approve or disapprove any request for expenditures
30 for the purchase or upgrading of equipment.

1 (4) Require such information and records from each
2 engineering school as it deems necessary.

3 (5) Request the department to certify to the board the
4 full-time equivalent enrollment of baccalaureate and graduate
5 engineering students at each engineering school in the most
6 recent year for which data are available.

7 (b) Allocation of funds.--The funds appropriated for
8 utilization pursuant to this act shall be allocated by the board
9 for grants to the engineering degree-granting schools based on
10 the ratio of full-time equivalent students enrolled in
11 baccalaureate and graduate engineering programs at each school
12 to the total number of full-time equivalent undergraduate and
13 graduate engineering students in this Commonwealth.

14 (c) Expenditure of funds.--All grants made to engineering
15 degree-granting schools shall be expended only for equipment. No
16 engineering school shall expend any grant funds on equipment
17 unless it also expends funds obtained from private sources on
18 that equipment. At least \$1 of private funds shall be required
19 for each \$1 of grant funds from this program paid to engineering
20 degree-granting schools. Grants made under this act shall not be
21 used to supplant existing Federal, State or local funds for the
22 acquisition or upgrading of engineering equipment. As used in
23 this subsection the term "private funds" shall include funds
24 obtained from corporate foundations.

25 (d) Distribution of unused funds.--Any allocated funds which
26 have not been expended consistent with subsection (c) by June 30
27 of each year shall be available for reallocation by the board.

28 Section 4. Indicators of program impact.

29 The department shall report to the General Assembly by March
30 31, 2002, and each March 31 thereafter, on the impact of the

1 program, including the types of equipment funded and the amount
2 of private sector matching funds generated. All recipients of
3 grants under this act shall provide information requested by the
4 department for the purposes of this report.

5 Section 5. Appropriation.

6 The sum of \$2,000,000, or as much thereof as may be
7 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Department of Education
8 to carry out the provisions of this act.

9 Section 6. Expiration.

10 This act shall expire June 30, 2006.

11 Section 7. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect immediately.