

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1245 Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY RHOADES, EARLL, WONDERLING, MOWERY, TOMLINSON,
PILEGGI, C. WILLIAMS, THOMPSON, TARTAGLIONE, WAGNER, GORDNER,
ORIE, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, PIPPY, ERICKSON, M. WHITE,
LEMOND, BOSCOLA, STACK AND CORMAN, OCTOBER 18, 2004

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, OCTOBER 18, 2004

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Task Force on Postsecondary and Higher
2 Education; and providing for its powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Task Force on
7 Postsecondary and Higher Education Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Committee." The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee.

13 "Department." The Department of Education of the
14 Commonwealth.

15 "Sectors of higher education." Providers of postsecondary
16 and higher education in this Commonwealth, by the following
17 sectors:

1 (1) State-related institutions.

2 (2) The State System of Higher Education.

3 (3) Community colleges.

4 (4) Private colleges and universities.

5 "Task force." The Task Force on Postsecondary and Higher
6 Education established under section 3.

7 Section 3. Task Force on Postsecondary and Higher Education.

8 (a) Establishment.--The Task Force on Postsecondary and
9 Higher Education is established.

10 (b) Goals.--The task force shall have the following goals:

11 (1) To assess the extent to which institutions in the
12 sectors of higher education collaborate with one another in
13 the delivery of higher education programs and services.

14 (2) To identify the stated missions of institutions in
15 the sectors of higher education.

16 (3) To assess the extent to which the missions of and
17 degree programs offered by institutions in the sectors of
18 higher education overlap or compete with one another.

19 (4) To identify rates of graduation in the sectors of
20 higher education and the placement of graduates in
21 employment, postgraduate and professional degree programs.

22 (5) To determine the cost per credit hour for all
23 sectors of higher education and to analyze the factors that
24 contribute to the cost per credit hour for all sectors of
25 higher education.

26 (6) To analyze students enrolled in all sectors of
27 higher education by demographic subgroup, family income,
28 ethnicity, age and other characteristics as determined by the
29 task force.

30 (7) To make recommendations on specific actions that may

1 be required to improve:

2 (i) Collaboration between the sectors of higher
3 education.

4 (ii) Access to higher education for Pennsylvania
5 students.

6 (iii) Cost efficiency of sectors of higher
7 education.

8 (c) Membership.--The task force shall consist of the
9 following voting members, appointed no later than January 20,
10 2005:

11 (1) Four members of the Senate, who shall be the
12 chairman and minority chairman of the Appropriations
13 Committee and the chairman and minority chairman of the
14 Education Committee.

15 (2) Four members of the House of Representatives, who
16 shall be the chairman and minority chairman of the
17 Appropriations Committee and the chairman and minority
18 chairman of the Education Committee.

19 (3) The Secretary of Education or a designee.

20 (4) The Secretary of the Budget or a designee.

21 (5) The chair of the State Board of Education.

22 (6) The following members appointed by the Governor from
23 a list of six nominees submitted to the Governor by each of
24 the following organizations:

25 (i) Four members representing colleges and
26 universities that are members of the Association of
27 Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania.

28 (ii) Four members representing community colleges
29 that are members of the Pennsylvania Commission for
30 Community Colleges.

1 (iii) Four members representing the State System of
2 Higher Education.

3 (iv) Four members representing the Association of
4 Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties.

5 (7) The following members appointed by the Governor from
6 a list of four nominees submitted by the Governor by each of
7 the following institutions:

8 (i) Two members representing The Pennsylvania State
9 University.

10 (ii) Two members representing the University of
11 Pittsburgh.

12 (iii) Two members representing Temple University.

13 (iv) Two members representing Lincoln University.

14 (v) Two members representing the University of
15 Pennsylvania.

16 (vi) Two members representing organizations that are
17 members of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association.

18 (vii) Two members representing organizations that
19 are members of the Pennsylvania Business Roundtable.

20 (viii) Two members representing organizations that
21 are members of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
22 Industry.

23 (ix) Two members representing organizations that are
24 members of the Pennsylvania chapter of the National
25 Federation of Independent Business.

26 (d) Vacancies.--Vacancies occurring on the task force by
27 death, resignation, removal or any other reason shall be filled
28 within 30 days of the creation of the vacancy in the manner in
29 which that position was originally filled. An individual
30 appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired

1 term of the member that person succeeds.

2 (e) Compensation.--The members of the task force shall
3 receive no actual compensation for their services. However, all
4 expenses reasonably necessary for the members of the task force
5 to perform their duties shall be paid by the department.

6 (f) Staff.--The committee shall provide staff support to the
7 task force.

8 Section 4. Powers and duties of task force.

9 The powers and duties of the task force shall be as follows:

10 (1) To meet no less than four times during the duration
11 of the task force, at the call of the chair. All such
12 meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the
13 requirements of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings).

14 (2) To hold public hearings, subject to the requirements
15 of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7, on any issue related to the goals set
16 forth in section 3.

17 (3) To issue a final report as required under section 5.

18 (4) To have access to all information from the
19 Governor's Office, the department, the State Board of
20 Education and the Office of the Budget on any issue related
21 to the goals set forth in section 3.

22 (5) To direct staff to fulfill duties related to the
23 goals set forth in section 3.

24 Section 5. Final report.

25 (a) Submission date.--No later than December 1, 2005, the
26 task force shall submit a final report to the Governor and the
27 General Assembly.

28 (b) Analysis of sectors of higher education.--The report
29 shall include an analysis of the mission of all sectors of
30 higher education and a summary of the graduation rates, costs

1 and placement rates of all sectors of higher education.

2 (c) Best practices.--The report shall include information on
3 best practices of all sectors of higher education as such
4 practices relate to the graduation rates, costs and placement
5 rates of the sectors of higher education.

6 (d) Recommendations.--The report shall include
7 recommendations on specific actions that may be required to
8 improve collaboration between the sectors of higher education,
9 improve access to higher education for Pennsylvania students and
10 improve cost-efficiency of the sectors of higher education.

11 Section 6. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect immediately.