

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1421 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY DEASY, BRADFORD, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, DONATUCCI, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GOODMAN, HALUSKA, HARKINS, HORNAMAN, JOHNSON, JOSEPHS, KOTIK, KULA, MANN, MATZIE, READSHAW, SANTONI, WAGNER AND WHITE, MAY 2, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 2, 2011

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," further providing for duties of
6 public institutions of higher education, for the Transfer and
7 Articulation Oversight Committee and for participation by
8 independent institutions of higher education and for
9 participation by State-related institutions.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 2002-C of the act of March 10, 1949
13 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added
14 July 11, 2006 (P.L.1092, No.114), is amended to read:

15 Section 2002-C. Duties of public institutions of higher
16 education.

17 (a) Completion.--Each public institution of higher education
18 shall complete all of the following by June 30, 2008:

19 (1) Participate in the development and implementation of
20 equivalency standards pursuant to section 2004-C(c)(1).

1 (2) Establish and maintain records and data detailing
2 the credits transferred to and received from other public
3 institutions of higher education as the department may
4 prescribe.

5 (3) Make any reasonable changes and modifications to its
6 foundation courses, including the strengthening of the
7 courses, to ensure equivalency of those credits among the
8 public institutions of higher education, as recommended by
9 the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.

10 (4) Agree to accept for transfer foundation courses
11 determined to meet equivalency standards under section
12 2004-C(c) (2) .

13 (a.1) Completion of second phase.--Each public institution
14 of higher education shall agree to accept with full junior
15 standing the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree
16 into a parallel baccalaureate program as outlined in section
17 2004-C(c) (2.1), (2.2), (2.3) and (2.4) by the timelines
18 established by the transfer and articulation subcommittee but
19 not later than December 31, 2013. For the purposes of this
20 article, an Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree is
21 a degree designed primarily for transfer to a baccalaureate
22 institution and must contain a minimum of 60 credits.

23 (b) Reporting requirements.--

24 (1) A public institution of higher education shall
25 submit to the department a series of interim reports
26 outlining the actions that the public institution of higher
27 education has undertaken or intends to undertake to comply
28 with subsection (a), which shall be filed December 31, 2006,
29 June 30, 2007, and December 31, 2007.

30 (2) A public institution of higher education shall

1 submit to the department interim reports outlining the
2 actions that the public institution of higher education has
3 undertaken or intends to undertake to comply with subsection
4 (a.1), which shall be filed by December 31, 2011, June 30,
5 2012, and December 31, 2012.

6 Section 2. Section 2004-C(c) of the act is amended by adding
7 paragraphs to read:

8 Section 2004-C. Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.

9 * * *

10 (c) Duties of Transfer and Articulation Oversight
11 Committee.--The committee shall:

12 * * *

13 (2.1) By December 1, 2011, consult with the department
14 on a process and timeline, subject to approval by the
15 department, to identify the Associate of Arts and Associate
16 of Science degrees aligned with the graduation requirements
17 of the parallel baccalaureate degree in all public
18 institutions of higher education in consultation with faculty
19 and personnel.

20 (2.2) Identify Associate of Arts and Associate of
21 Science degree programs for transfer with full junior
22 standing into a parallel baccalaureate degree in consultation
23 with faculty and personnel in those degree programs by
24 December 31, 2013.

25 (2.3) Identify modifications that may be required in
26 existing associate or baccalaureate degrees to satisfy
27 external accreditation or licensure requirements in
28 consultation with faculty and personnel. Approved
29 modifications must recognize all competencies attained within
30 either the associate or baccalaureate programs.

1 (2.4) Define requirements, in consultation with faculty
2 and personnel, for education degrees, including Early
3 Childhood Education degrees, leading to certification to be
4 included in an associate degree and be accepted for transfer
5 with full junior standing into a parallel baccalaureate
6 degree program.

7 * * *

8 Section 3. Section 2006-C of the act, added July 11, 2006
9 (P.L.1092, No.114), is amended to read:

10 Section 2006-C. Participation by independent institutions of
11 higher education or State-related [institution]
12 institutions.

13 An independent institution of higher education or a State-
14 related institution may elect to participate through the
15 adoption of equivalency standards as provided for in subsection
16 2004-C(c)(1) and by agreement to accept for transfer degrees
17 that qualify under section 2004-C(c)(2.2) by its governing body.

18 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011, or
19 immediately, whichever is later.