
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1911 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY LUCAS, BAKER, BARRAR, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,
P. DALEY, DEASY, FABRIZIO, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, HARKINS,
KILLION, KINSEY, KORTZ, MAHONEY, MURT, OBERLANDER, REED,
ROCK, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, SWANGER, THOMAS AND TRUITT,
DECEMBER 11, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, DECEMBER 11, 2013

AN ACT

1 Providing for an application fee reduction for high school
2 seniors applying to State-owned institutions; and imposing
3 duties on the State System of Higher Education.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the College
8 "Appportunity" Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative intent.

10 It is the intent of the General Assembly to facilitate the
11 purpose of the State System of Higher Education of providing
12 high quality education at the lowest possible cost to students.

13 Specifically, this act seeks to decrease the barriers high
14 school seniors, especially those who aspire to be first-
15 generation college students or those who would not otherwise be
16 able to afford application fees, face in applying to colleges.

17 Section 3. Definitions.

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

4 "PASSHE." The State System of Higher Education.

5 "State-owned institution." An institution that is part of
6 the State System of Higher Education pursuant to Article XX-A of
7 the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public
8 School Code of 1949.

9 Section 4. Application fee discount.

10 (a) General rule.--On the third Thursday of October of each
11 year, to be known as "College 'Appportunity' Day," every high
12 school in this Commonwealth shall provide high school seniors
13 with a discount code for the application fee to apply for
14 admission to any or all State-owned institutions. The high
15 school senior shall write the code on the promotional code
16 section of the application for admission. The code shall
17 discount the application fee so that the fee for each
18 application is \$5.

19 (b) Discount code.--PASSHE shall provide all high schools
20 within this Commonwealth with the universal discount code that
21 shall allow high school seniors to apply to State-owned
22 institutions for the amount provided under subsection (a).

23 (c) Application.--The following shall apply:

24 (1) Every State-owned institution shall revise its
25 application for admission so that it contains a promotional
26 code section.

27 (2) Upon receiving an application for admission
28 containing the universal discount code provided by PASSHE, a
29 State-owned institution shall process the application if the
30 application contains the application fee required under

1 subsection (a).

2 (d) Advertisement.--Beginning on October 1 of each year,
3 PASSHE shall advertise "College 'Appportunity' Day" to high
4 school seniors across this Commonwealth. PASHHE may promulgate
5 regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this
6 subsection.

7 (e) Admission requirements.--The application fee discount
8 provided under this section shall not be construed to waive any
9 admission requirements of State-owned institutions.

10 Section 5. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.