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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1002 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY MURT, ACOSTA, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE,  
COHEN, DAVIDSON, DeLUCA, TALLMAN AND WATSON, APRIL 20, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 20, 2015

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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," in community colleges, further  
6 providing for the definition of "community college," for  
7 powers and duties of State Board of Education and Board of  
8 Trustees, for degrees and for dissolution of certain  
9 community colleges.

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

12 Section 1. Section 1901-A(4) of the act of March 10, 1949  
13 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
14 amended July 13, 2005 (P.L.226, No.46), is amended to read:

15 Section 1901-A. Definitions.--The following words and  
16 phrases, as used in this article, shall, unless a different  
17 meaning is plainly required by the context, have the following  
18 meaning:

19 \* \* \*

20 (4) "Community college" shall mean a public college or  
21 technical institute which is established and operated in

1 accordance with the provisions of this act by a local sponsor  
2 which provides a two-year, four-year, postsecondary, college-  
3 parallel, terminal-general, terminal-technical, out-of-school  
4 youth or adult education program or any combination of these.  
5 The community college may also provide area vocational-technical  
6 education services and credit, nonremedial college courses to  
7 secondary senior high school students.

8 \* \* \*

9 Section 2. Sections 1902-A(a)(1), 1905-A(a) and 1912-A of  
10 the act, added July 1, 1985 (P.L.103, No.31), are amended to  
11 read:

12 Section 1902-A. Powers and Duties of State Board of  
13 Education.--(a) The State Board of Education shall have the  
14 power, and its duty shall be:

15 (1) To adopt such policies, standards, rules and regulations  
16 formulated by the Council of Higher Education, as may be  
17 necessary to provide for the establishment, operation and  
18 maintenance of community colleges, including minimum  
19 requirements for physical facilities and equipment, curriculum,  
20 faculty, standards and professional requirements, qualifications  
21 for admission and advancement of students, student enrollment,  
22 student population of the area to be served by the community  
23 college, requirements for satisfactory completion of a two-year  
24 or four-year program and the degrees or diplomas or certificates  
25 to be awarded therefor, means of financing and financial  
26 resources for the establishment and support of the community  
27 college, standards under which the State Board of Education may  
28 allow a community college to offer baccalaureate degrees and  
29 standards under which the State Board of Education shall  
30 determine the baccalaureate degrees a community college may be

1 allowed to offer and all matters necessary to effectuate the  
2 purposes of this act.

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 1905-A. Powers and Duties of Board of Trustees.--(a)

5 The affairs of any community college established under this act  
6 shall be administered and supervised by a board of trustees.

7 Subject to any law and to any policies, standards, rules and

8 regulations adopted by the State Board of Education provided for

9 community colleges, the board shall, for the purpose of

10 establishing, operating and maintaining a community college,

11 have the power, and its duty shall be:

12 (1) To appoint and fix the salary of a president.

13 (2) To hold, rent, lease, sell, purchase and improve land,

14 buildings, furnishings, equipment, materials, books and

15 supplies.

16 (3) To enter into contracts for services with schools,

17 colleges or universities, or with school districts or

18 municipalities, to effectuate the purposes of this act.

19 (4) To accept and receive gifts of real and personal

20 property and Federal, State and local moneys and grants, and to

21 expend the same.

22 (5) To make policies providing for the admission and

23 expulsion of students, the degrees to be offered, the courses of

24 instruction, the tuition and fees to be charged and for all

25 matters related to the government and administration of the

26 college.

27 (6) To submit to the State Board of Education for its

28 approval proposed amendments to the community college plan,

29 including any proposal to offer baccalaureate degrees pursuant

30 to section 1912-A(b).

1 (7) To enter into contracts for services to high schools of  
2 member districts to provide area vocational-technical education  
3 services.

4 (8) To exercise such other powers and perform such other  
5 duties as are necessary to carry into effect the purposes of  
6 this act.

7 \* \* \*

8 Section 1912-A. Degrees.--(a) The State Board of Education  
9 shall prescribe the types of diplomas, certificates or degrees  
10 that may be granted students who complete post-secondary  
11 education courses in community colleges.

12 (b) (1) Upon request by an established community college to  
13 amend its community college plan to allow the community college  
14 to offer baccalaureate degree programs, the State Board of  
15 Education may allow a community college to offer baccalaureate  
16 degree programs where the State Board of Education determines  
17 that both of the following apply:

18 (i) The community college:

19 (A) is located in a rural geographic area of this  
20 Commonwealth;

21 (B) is located in a geographic area that is underserved by  
22 other colleges or universities offering baccalaureate degrees;  
23 or

24 (C) seeks to offer a baccalaureate degree program that is  
25 not offered by any other college or university serving the  
26 geographic area in which the community college is located; and

27 (ii) The board of trustees of the community college has  
28 demonstrated that each local sponsor of the community college  
29 has approved the request by resolution adopted by a majority  
30 vote at a public meeting of the local sponsor.

1     (2) In approving the request of a community college to offer  
2 baccalaureate degree programs pursuant to this subsection, the  
3 State Board of Education shall specify the baccalaureate degree  
4 programs the community college is allowed to offer.

5     (3) The State Board of Education shall promulgate  
6 regulations pursuant to the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633,  
7 No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act," in order to  
8 implement this subsection.

9     Section 3. Section 1914-A(c) of the act, added June 22, 2001  
10 (P.L.530, No.35), is amended to read:

11     Section 1914-A. Dissolution of Certain Community Colleges.--  
12 \* \* \*

13     (c) The corporate successor of a dissolved community college  
14 shall continue to have the authority to grant baccalaureate  
15 degrees, associate degrees and certificates in those programs in  
16 which the dissolved community college had the authority to grant  
17 degrees during the last complete school year of operation as a  
18 community college. If a corporate successor desires to offer  
19 additional associate degree programs, it must apply to the  
20 Department of Education to obtain approval in accordance with  
21 applicable regulations. If a corporate successor desires to  
22 offer additional certificates, it shall apply for licensure to  
23 the State Board of Private Licensed Schools. [A corporate  
24 successor of a dissolved community college is not authorized to  
25 award baccalaureate degrees.] If a corporate successor desires  
26 to offer baccalaureate degree programs, it must apply to the  
27 State Board of Education pursuant to section 1912-A(b).

28 \* \* \*

29     Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.