

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1552 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY ROAE, SONNEY, MALONEY, JAMES, DRISCOLL, TOPPER,  
DAVIS, PHILLIPS-HILL, MILLARD, READSHAW, WATSON, EVANKOVICH,  
RAPP, MURT AND SANTORA, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

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 preliminary provisions, providing  
6 for powers and duties of the Secretary of Education.

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

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 124. Powers and Duties of the Secretary of  
13 Education.--(a) On behalf of the Commonwealth, the Secretary of  
14 Education shall have the authority and duty to enter into and  
15 administer membership in a regional compact and an interstate  
16 reciprocity agreement for the provision of postsecondary  
17 distance education by the following:

18 (1) Institutions of higher education to students in other  
19 states, territories and districts party to such agreement.

1 (2) Postsecondary institutions in other states, territories  
2 or districts that are a party to such agreement to students in  
3 this Commonwealth.

4 (b) The Department of Education may charge administrative  
5 fees to institutions of higher education that choose to  
6 participate in the agreement, not to exceed the amount necessary  
7 to pay the administrative costs of the agreement. The department  
8 may promulgate final-omitted regulations pursuant to the act of  
9 June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review  
10 Act," necessary to implement this subsection, provided that such  
11 final-omitted regulations shall expire June 30, 2018. After June  
12 30, 2018, any revisions to the administrative fees charged under  
13 this subsection shall be made through regulations promulgated  
14 under the Regulatory Review Act.

15 (c) The Postsecondary Distance Education Interstate  
16 Reciprocity Agreement Restricted Receipts Account is established  
17 as a special restricted receipts account within the General Fund  
18 of the State Treasury, from which the Department of Education  
19 may draw moneys for the purpose of agreement expenses, the costs  
20 of administering and implementing the agreement and all other  
21 costs associated with the activities of the department related  
22 to implementation of this section. This account shall consist of  
23 all administrative fees deposited under subsection (b) and State  
24 funds appropriated for use under this section. The restricted  
25 receipts account shall be subject to audit by the Auditor  
26 General.

27 (d) For purposes of this section, "institution of higher  
28 education" shall have the meaning given in section 118.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.