

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1281 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, SCHWANK AND WARD, JUNE 2, 2016

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 2, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 7, 1963 (P.L.549, No.290), entitled,
 2 as amended, "An act creating the Pennsylvania Higher
 3 Education Assistance Agency; defining its powers and duties;
 4 conferring powers and imposing duties on the Governor,
 5 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of
 6 Representatives, Superintendent of Public Instruction and the
 7 Department of Auditor General; and making appropriations,"
 8 providing for board of directors; further providing for
 9 audits and reports; and providing for accountability to
 10 taxpayers.

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

13 Section 1. Section 8 of the act of August 7, 1963 (P.L.549,
 14 No.290), referred to as the Pennsylvania Higher Education
 15 Assistance Agency Act, amended October 29, 1969 (P.L.283,
 16 No.116), is amended to read:

17 Section 8. Audits and Reports.--The activities of the
 18 Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency under this act
 19 and of any nonprofit corporation established by the agency
 20 shall be subject to the audit of the Department of Auditor
 21 General, but the agency or any nonprofit corporation established
 22 by the agency shall not be required to pay a fee for any such

1 audit. [It] The agency and any nonprofit corporation established
2 by the agency shall each make an annual report to the Governor,
3 and the Legislature showing its condition at the end of the
4 Commonwealth's fiscal year. The annual report shall include:

5 (1) A description of how the agency or any nonprofit
6 corporation established by the agency has maximized the amount
7 of revenue provided as aid to students, including any specific
8 measures designed to increase efficiency implemented during the
9 fiscal year and an estimate of the resulting expenditure
10 reductions or revenue increases achieved as a result of the
11 reform.

12 (2) An itemization of all travel expenses and an itemization
13 of all other expenses that are a minimum of fifty dollars (\$50)
14 paid to, reimbursed to or paid on behalf of an employe, a member
15 of the board of directors or any other person, excluding
16 reimbursement for mileage.

17 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

18 Section 8.1. Accountability to Taxpayers.--(a)
19 Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, no employe of
20 the agency or any nonprofit corporation established by the
21 agency shall receive a bonus unless included as part of a
22 collective bargaining agreement.

23 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, the
24 agency shall not make any expenditure on the following:

25 (i) Retreats for members of the board of directors or agency
26 staff that cost more than \$50 per person.

27 (ii) Sponsorship of events or activities except those
28 narrowly tailored to increase access to higher education
29 opportunities for Pennsylvanians.

30 (iii) Promotional materials and advertising, excluding

1 brochures, mailings, forms or other documents describing agency
2 programs.

3 (c) During the 2016-2017 fiscal year and each fiscal year
4 thereafter, the agency shall allocate to the scholarship program
5 established pursuant to the act of January 25, 1966 (1965
6 P.L.1546, No.541), referred to as the Higher Education
7 Scholarship Law, an amount equal to the total expenditures
8 during the 2016-2017 fiscal year on items prohibited by clauses
9 (1) and (2). The allocation shall be in addition to any amount
10 appropriated by the General Assembly and any amount committed by
11 the agency in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

12 (d) For the purpose of this section, a bonus shall be any
13 monetary compensation given to an employe above and beyond the
14 employe's annual salary. The term does not include reimbursement
15 for mileage and expenses for official business.

16 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.