

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1448 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, MILLARD, GREINER, PICKETT, B. MILLER, SOLOMON, HICKERNELL, JAMES, TOPPER, FEE, V. BROWN, KAUFFMAN, PEIFER, OBERLANDER, PHILLIPS-HILL, WARD, SAYLOR, ROEBUCK, HILL-EVANS AND ZIMMERMAN, MAY 25, 2017

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 19, 2017

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," providing for higher education
6 accountability and transparency.

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 an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XX-H

13 HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

14 AND TRANSPARENCY

15 Section 2001-H. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this article
17 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
18 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "COLLEGE NAVIGATOR WEBSITE." THE COLLEGE NAVIGATOR WEBSITE <--  
2 OR ITS SUCCESSOR WEBSITE OPERATED BY THE UNITED STATES  
3 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND REQUIRED PURSUANT TO 20 U.S.C. §  
4 1015A (RELATING TO TRANSPARENCY IN COLLEGE TUITION FOR  
5 CONSUMERS).

6 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
7 Commonwealth.

8 "Graduation rates." The percentages of full-time  
9 undergraduate students enrolled for credit toward a degree,  
10 diploma, certificate or other formal credential who are awarded  
11 a degree, diploma or certificate within each of the following:

12 (1) 100% of the normal completion time for the student's  
13 program.

14 (2) 125% of the normal completion time for the student's  
15 program.

16 (3) 150% of the normal completion time for the student's  
17 program.

18 "Institution of higher education." The term includes any of  
19 the following:

20 (1) A community college operating under Article XIX-A.

21 (2) A university within the State System of Higher  
22 Education.

23 (3) The Pennsylvania State University, the University of  
24 Pittsburgh, Temple University, Lincoln University or any  
25 other institution designated as State-related by the  
26 Commonwealth.

27 (4) The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

28 (5) An institution of higher education which is operated  
29 not for profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by  
30 the Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees as set forth

1 in 24 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees)  
2 and is designated as a "college" or "university" as provided  
3 for by the standards and qualifications prescribed by the  
4 State Board of Education under 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65 (relating to  
5 private colleges, universities and seminaries).

6 (6) A private school licensed under the act of December  
7 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the Private Licensed  
8 Schools Act.

9 "Net tuition and fees." The average total cost of attendance  
10 minus the average amount of grant or scholarship aid awarded to  
11 a first-time, full-time undergraduate student enrolled for  
12 credit toward a degree, diploma, certificate or other formal  
13 credential from the Federal Government, the Commonwealth or the  
14 institution of higher education.

15 "PHEAA." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
16 Agency.

17 "Retention rate." The percentage of first-year, full-time  
18 undergraduate students enrolled for credit toward a degree,  
19 diploma, certificate or other formal credential who continue to  
20 be enrolled at an institution of higher education in the  
21 following school year.

22 "SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, INTERMEDIATE UNIT, AREA <--  
23 VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL, CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER  
24 SCHOOL, OR REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL.

25 "Total debt." The average per-student cumulative principal  
26 borrowed from a loan program, including Federal and State loan  
27 programs, institutional loans and private alternate loans made  
28 by a bank or lender.

29 SECTION 2002-H. COLLEGE NAVIGATOR AND HIGH PRIORITY <--  
30 OCCUPATIONS.

1 (A) DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE  
2 AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET  
3 WEBSITE, IN A SINGLE LOCATION, INFORMATION THAT INCLUDES, AT A  
4 MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING:

5 (1) A DIRECT LINK TO THE COLLEGE NAVIGATOR WEBSITE WITH  
6 A DESCRIPTION OF THE USES AND FEATURES OF THE COLLEGE  
7 NAVIGATOR WEBSITE.

8 (2) A DIRECT LINK TO THE HIGH PRIORITY OCCUPATIONS  
9 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
10 LABOR AND INDUSTRY WITH A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HIGH PRIORITY  
11 OCCUPATIONS ARE AND HOW THEY ARE IDENTIFIED.

12 (B) DUTY OF PHEAA.--PHEAA SHALL INCLUDE A LINK ON ITS  
13 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE TO INFORMATION CONTAINED ON  
14 THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE UNDER SUBSECTION (A).

15 (C) DUTY OF SCHOOL ENTITIES.--EACH SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL  
16 ANNUALLY PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)  
17 TO STUDENTS IN GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE.

18 Section 2002-H 2003-H. Comparison tool. <--

19 (a) Duty of department.--The IF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT <--  
20 OF EDUCATION DISCONTINUES THE PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE  
21 NAVIGATOR WEBSITE, THE department shall make available on the  
22 department's publicly accessible Internet website a search tool  
23 that allows an individual to compare institutions of higher  
24 education that meet certain criteria selected by the individual,  
25 including the offering of a particular major or program of  
26 study.

27 (b) Requirements.--The comparison tool required under this  
28 section must:

29 (1) Be accessible from the department's publicly  
30 accessible Internet website.

1           (2) Allow a user to identify and compare institutions of  
2 higher education by the following:

3           (i) Programs of study available.  
4           (ii) Name.  
5           (iii) Physical address.  
6           (iv) Total enrollment for the previous academic  
7 year.  
8           (v) Net tuition and fees per year based on the  
9 previous academic year.  
10          (vi) Percentages of students receiving:  
11           (A) Pell grants.  
12           (B) Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity  
13 grants.  
14           (C) Academic Competitiveness grants.  
15           (D) National Science and Mathematics Access to  
16 Retain Talent grants.  
17           (E) Teacher Education Assistance for College and  
18 Higher Education grants.  
19          (vii) Average total debt borrowed for undergraduate  
20 study.  
21          (viii) Graduation and retention rates, including  
22 information on average time, in years, to attainment of a  
23 degree, diploma, certificate or other formal credential  
24 for a full-time student.  
25          (ix) Percentage of undergraduate students who have  
26 defaulted on their Federal student loans within three  
27 years of entering repayment.

28          (3) Be accessible to the public without requiring  
29 registration or use of a user name, password or other user  
30 identification.

1 (4) Include a link to the publicly accessible Internet  
2 website of the Department of Labor and Industry and a link to  
3 the publicly accessible Internet website of each of the  
4 institutions of higher education selected.

5 (5) Include a direct link to the High Priority  
6 Occupations publicly accessible Internet website of the  
7 Department of Labor and Industry with a description of what  
8 high priority occupations are and how they are identified.

9 (c) Chart.--The comparison tool required under this section  
10 must generate a comparison chart in a grid format that:

11 (1) Lists the institutions of higher education that  
12 match a user's search criteria.

13 (2) Provides information for each institution of higher  
14 education listed as outlined in subsection (b) (2).

15 (d) Duty of institutions.--Each IF THE DEPARTMENT IS <--  
16 REQUIRED TO DEVELOP THE COMPARISON TOOL UNDER SUBSECTION (A),  
17 EACH institution of higher education shall provide the  
18 information listed in this section, as available, to the  
19 department not later than January 1 of each year. If the  
20 information required under this subsection is available in an  
21 institution of higher education's Integrated Postsecondary  
22 Education Data System report, the institution of higher  
23 education may comply with the reporting requirements of this  
24 subsection by sending an electronic copy of the Integrated  
25 Postsecondary Education Data System report to the department.  
26 The department shall update the comparison tool as soon as  
27 practicable after receiving information from each institution of  
28 higher education.

29 (e) ~~The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency~~ <--  
30 PHEAA shall include a link on its publicly accessible Internet <--

1 website to the comparison tool required under this section.

2 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.