

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 265 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY STAATS, KAUFFMAN, JAMES, SAYLOR, QUINN, D. MILLER, BOBACK, IRVIN, OBERLANDER, GLEIM, HILL-EVANS, ROEBUCK, RADER, GABLER, PICKETT, KORTZ, MURT, JOZWIAK, PASHINSKI, SIMMONS, BARRAR, STRUZZI AND NEILSON, JANUARY 29, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 29, 2019

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 transfers of credits between
 6 institutions of higher education, further providing for
 7 definitions, for duties of public institutions of higher
 8 education and State-related institutions, for Transfer and
 9 Articulation Oversight Committee and for duties of
 10 department.

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

13 Section 1. Section 2001-C of the act of March 10, 1949
 14 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
 15 amended November 6, 2017 (P.L.1142, No.55), is amended to read:
 16 Section 2001-C. Definitions.

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

20 "Advanced Placement Program." A program authorized by the
 21 college board that allows a student to study college-level

1 subjects while enrolled in high school and to receive advanced
2 placement and college credit for earning a qualified score on
3 the course-related Advanced Placement Program exam.

4 "Career, technical or applied courses." Courses usually
5 offered as part of an associate degree curriculum designed to
6 prepare students for entry-level professions, not for transfer
7 to baccalaureate programs for advanced studies.

8 "College-Level Examination Program." A set of standardized
9 tests developed by the college board for various subjects, and
10 on which a qualifying score can be used to earn college credit.

11 "Community college." An institution created pursuant to
12 Article XIX-A or the act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484),
13 known as the Community College Act of 1963.

14 "Credit for prior learning." College-level credit granted
15 toward the award of a postsecondary degree or certificate for
16 experiential learning that can be demonstrated through various
17 means of assessment to be the equivalent of learning gained
18 through formal collegiate instruction, including an Advanced
19 Placement Program exam, International Baccalaureate Diploma
20 Program exam, a College-Level Examination Program exam and
21 Dantes Subject Standardized Tests.

22 "Dantes Subject Standardized Tests." A set of subject exams
23 approved by the American Council on Education that tests
24 knowledge of both lower-level and upper-level college material.

25 ["Degree objective courses." Courses required for completion
26 of a major in a subject area.]

27 "Department." The Department of Education of the
28 Commonwealth.

29 "Developmental or remedial courses." Courses typically
30 consisting of reading, writing and math designed to prepare

1 students for college-level courses and that are not
2 transferable.

3 "Equivalent courses." Courses determined to have generally
4 equivalent content and level as determined by the faculty of an
5 institution of higher education consistent with the policy at
6 each institution of higher education.

7 "Foundation courses." Courses required to be completed by
8 students that provide an academic foundation for the degree,
9 general education or advanced study in a major.

10 "Independent institution of higher education." An
11 institution of higher education which is operated not for
12 profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by the
13 Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees as set forth in 24
14 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees) and to
15 apply to itself the designation "college" or "university" as
16 provided for by the standards and qualifications prescribed by
17 the State Board of Education pursuant to 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65
18 (relating to private colleges, universities and seminaries).

19 "Industry-recognized credential." A credential that:

20 (1) is sought or accepted by employers within the
21 industry or sector involved as a recognized, preferred or
22 required credential for recruitment, screening, hiring,
23 retention or advancement purposes;

24 (2) where appropriate, is endorsed by a nationally
25 recognized trade association or organization representing a
26 significant part of the industry or sector; and

27 (3) is approved by the department.

28 "Institution of higher education." Any of the accredited
29 following:

30 (1) A public institution of higher education.

1 schools.

2 (a) Agreements.--Each [public] institution of higher
3 education and [State-related institution] public school shall
4 provide the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee and
5 the department with copies of all articulation agreements for
6 inclusion in the electronic database or software program and
7 portal provided for under section 2005-C(4) within 180 days of
8 the effective date of this section and within 30 days of
9 entering into any subsequent articulation agreement.

10 (b) Reporting requirements.--The following shall apply to
11 reporting requirements:

12 (1) Each [public] institution of higher education [and
13 State-related institution] shall submit to the department a
14 series of interim reports that describe the status of the
15 institution's articulation agreements, which shall include
16 all of the following:

17 (i) The number of students who have transferred to
18 the [public] institution of higher education [or State-
19 related institution] by institution of origin within the
20 last academic year or since submittal of the
21 institution's last interim report required under this
22 section.

23 (ii) The total number of credits completed by
24 transfer students at the institution of origin.

25 (iii) The total number of credits from each
26 institution of origin that transferred to the [public]
27 institution of higher education [or State-related
28 institution] for each academic year.

29 (iv) An explanation of the credit transfer process
30 at the institution.

1 (v) Any other information related to the credit
2 transfer process as requested by the department,
3 including the useability of transfer credits.

4 (2) Each [public] institution of higher education [and
5 State-related institution] shall submit its first interim
6 report required under this section 180 days after the
7 effective date of this section and by September 30 of each
8 year thereafter.

9 Section 3. Section 2004-C(a)(1) introductory paragraph is
10 amended and subsection (c) is amended by adding a paragraph to
11 read:

12 Section 2004-C. Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.

13 (a) Establishment and membership.--

14 (1) In order to develop and implement equivalency
15 standards as provided for in subsection (c)(1) and provide
16 access to articulation agreements, there is hereby
17 established within the department, the Transfer and
18 Articulation Oversight Committee. The committee shall be
19 comprised of the following members:

20 * * *

21 (c) Duties of Transfer and Articulation Oversight
22 Committee.--The committee shall:

23 * * *

24 (7) Meet on a regular basis at least quarterly.

25 Section 4. Section 2005-C(4) of the act is amended to read:

26 Section 2005-C. Duties of department.

27 The department shall:

28 * * *

29 (4) Provide for an electronic database or software
30 program and portal for the purpose of providing access to all

1 of the following information on an Internet website:

2 (i) Articulation agreements and agreements that
3 award credit for an industry-recognized credential
4 entered into by [public institutions of higher education
5 and institutions that elect to participate under section
6 2006-C.] institutions of higher education, public schools
7 and institutions described under clause (C). The
8 following apply:

9 (A) The department shall extract transfer
10 information from each articulation agreement and each
11 agreement that awards credit for an industry-
12 recognized credential and enter the information into
13 the electronic database or software program and
14 portal and provide a meaningful, user-friendly and
15 interactive search engine for access to the
16 information.

17 (B) The department shall, within 60 days of
18 receiving an articulation agreement or agreement that
19 awards credit for an industry-recognized credential,
20 update the database and post each articulation
21 agreement and each agreement that awards credit for
22 an industry-recognized credential on its publicly
23 accessible Internet website.

24 (C) An institution which is not subject to the
25 duties under section 2003-C may submit to the
26 department any articulation agreement or agreement
27 that awards credit for an industry-recognized
28 credential into which the institution enters. Each
29 submitted articulation agreement and each agreement
30 that awards credit for an industry-recognized

1 credential shall be subject to this paragraph.

2 (ii) The annual report to the General Assembly as
3 required by section 2004-C(c) (5).

4 [(iii) At the request of a public institution of
5 higher education or an institution that elects to
6 participate under section 2006-C, any articulation
7 agreements.]

8 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.