AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," in transfers of credits between institutions of higher education, further providing for definitions, for duties of public institutions of higher education and State-related institutions, for Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee and for duties of department. AMENDING THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), ENTITLED "AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, INCLUDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS APPLICABLE AS WELL TO PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS; AMENDING, REVISIGN, CONSOLIDATING AND CHANGING THE LAWS RELATING THERETO," IN PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS, PROVIDING FOR CAREER INFORMATION AND RECRUITMENT; IN TERMS AND COURSES OF STUDY, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION EXCELLENCE; IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION EQUIPMENT GRANTS AND PROVIDING FOR UTILIZATION OF CREDITS; PROVIDING FOR CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE; AND, IN TRANSFERS OF CREDITS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR DUTIES OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND STATE-RELATED INSTITUTIONS, FOR TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND FOR DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT.

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

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

Section 2001-C. Definitions.

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

"Advanced Placement Program." A program authorized by the college board that allows a student to study college-level subjects while enrolled in high school and to receive advanced placement and college credit for earning a qualified score on the course-related Advanced Placement Program exam.

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

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

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

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

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

"Degree objective courses." Courses required for completion of a major in a subject area.

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

"Developmental or remedial courses." Courses typically consisting of reading, writing and math designed to prepare students for college-level courses and that are not transferable.

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

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

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

"Industry-recognized credential." A credential that:

1. is sought or accepted by employers within the
industry or sector involved as a recognized, preferred or
required credential for recruitment, screening, hiring,
retention or advancement purposes;

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

(3) is approved by the department.

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

(1) A public institution of higher education.
(2) A rural regional college.
(3) A State-related institution.
(4) The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

"International Baccalaureate Diploma Program." An
academically challenging two-year precollege diploma program
comprised of three core requirements and six academic subject-
areas with final examinations that prepare students, 16 to 19
years of age, for higher education and life in a global society.

"Public institution of higher education." A community
college or an institution which is part of the State System of
Higher Education pursuant to Article XX-A.

"Public school." Any of the following:

(1) A school district.
(2) An intermediate unit.
(3) An area vocational technical school.
(4) A charter school, as defined in section 1703 A.
(5) A regional charter school, as defined in section
1703-A.

(6) A cyber charter school, as defined in section 1703-
"Rural regional college." A rural regional college operating under Article XIX-G.

"State-related institution." The Pennsylvania State University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University, Lincoln University and their branch campuses.

"Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee." The committee established under section 2004-C.

Section 2. Section 2003-C of the act is amended to read:

Section 2003-C. Duties of [public] institutions of higher education and [State-related institutions] public schools.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2004-C. Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.

(a) Establishment and membership.

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

***
(e) Duties of Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.—The committee shall:

***

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

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

Section 2005-C. Duties of department.

The department shall:

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(4) Provide for an electronic database or software program and portal for the purpose of providing access to all of the following information on an Internet website:

(i) Articulation agreements and agreements that award credit for an industry-recognized credential entered into by public institutions of higher education and institutions that elect to participate under section 2006-C. Institutions of higher education, public schools and institutions described under clause (C). The following apply:

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

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

(C) An institution which is not subject to the
duties under section 2003-C may submit to the
department any articulation agreement or agreement
that awards credit for an industry-recognized
credential into which the institution enters. Each
submitted articulation agreement and each agreement
that awards credit for an industry-recognized
credential shall be subject to this paragraph.

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

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

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

SECTION 1. THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, IS AMENDED BY ADDING A
SECTION TO READ:

SECTION 128. CAREER INFORMATION AND RECRUITMENT.--(A)

SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D), A SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL OFFER

REPRESENTATIVES OF SKILLED TRADES, PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITY

OCCUPATIONS, AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY

COLLEGES OPERATING UNDER ARTICLE XIX-A AND INSTITUTIONS OF

HIGHER EDUCATION THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

FOLLOWING:

(1) DELIVERY OF INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYMENT

TRAINING OR EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE
SCHOOL ENTITY.

(2) RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL ENTITY.

(B) EACH SCHOOL ENTITY RECEIVING ASSISTANCE UNDER THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (PUBLIC LAW 114-95, 129 STAT. 1802) SHALL PROVIDE MILITARY RECRUITERS THE SAME ACCESS TO STUDENTS AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A).

(C) REPRESENTATIVES UNDER SUBSECTION (A) MUST BE COMPLIANT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER 23 PA.C.S. § 6344.2 (RELATING TO VOLUNTEERS HAVING CONTACT WITH CHILDREN) AND SHALL GIVE NO LESS THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS' NOTICE WHEN REQUESTING ACCESS FROM A SCHOOL ENTITY UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OR (2).

(D) A SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL:

(1) OFFER EACH OF THE REPRESENTATIVES UNDER SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) AT LEAST ONE OPPORTUNITY DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR TO PROVIDE AGE-APPROPRIATE INFORMATION TO ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES FOUR THROUGH TWELVE REGARDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT TRAINING OR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, INDIVIDUALLY OR IN A GROUP SETTING, THROUGH MAKING A PRESENTATION AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY, HOSTING STUDENTS FOR A VISIT TO AN AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR ANY OTHER METHOD OF SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS.

(2) DOCUMENT ANNUALLY THE FOLLOWING IN THE PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER 22 PA. CODE § 339.31 (RELATING TO PLAN):

(I) THE SCHOOL ENTITY'S COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING SCHOOL YEAR.

(II) THE SCHOOL ENTITY'S PLAN TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH ACCESS TO INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND CAREER PRESENTERS AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION IN THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR.

(3) POST THE PLAN ON THE SCHOOL ENTITY'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE
INTERNET WEBSITE.

(E) A SCHOOL ENTITY MAY NOT DISCOURAGE STUDENTS FROM PURSUING ANY EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER PATH AND SHALL ENSURE THAT EACH STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL ENTITY HAS ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(F) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY, SHALL DEVELOP:

(1) STANDARD INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS WHICH INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, A SUMMARY OF REGIONAL WORKFORCE NEEDS PRODUCED BIENNIALLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY, CAREER CLUSTER OCCUPATIONS, PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITY OCCUPATIONS, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND FUTURE EARNING POTENTIAL. THE MATERIALS SHALL BE REVIEWED AND UPDATED ANNUALLY. EACH SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES FOUR THROUGH TWELVE ARE PROVIDED ACCESS TO THE MATERIALS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR AND THE MATERIALS ARE ALSO MADE AVAILABLE AT ANY SCHEDULED EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER FAIR OR ACTIVITY UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OR (D).

(2) GUIDELINES TO ASSIST SCHOOL ENTITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

(G) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

"INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION." AN ACCREDITED ENTITY WHICH IS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

(1) A UNIVERSITY WITHIN THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER ARTICLE XX-A.

(2) THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OR ANY OTHER
INSTITUTION DESIGNATED AS STATE-RELATED BY THE COMMONWEALTH.

(3) THE THADDEUS STEVENS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY.
(4) A COLLEGE ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE XIX-G.
(5) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOCATED IN AND INCORPORATED OR CHARTERED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND ENTITLED TO CONFER DEGREES AS SPECIFIED IN 24 PA.C.S. § 6505 (RELATING TO POWER TO CONFER DEGREES) AND AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UNDER 24 PA.C.S. CH. 65 (RELATING TO PRIVATE COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES).


(7) A FOREIGN CORPORATION APPROVED TO OPERATE AN EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISE UNDER 22 PA. CODE CH. 36 (RELATING TO FOREIGN CORPORATION STANDARDS).

"PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITY OCCUPATION." A PROFESSION THAT:

(1) IS HIGH-WAGE AND HIGH-SKILL FOR WHICH THERE IS EXCESS EMPLOYER DEMAND AS MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY'S CURRENT YEAR'S HIGH-PRIORITY OR IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS LIST OR THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S WORKFORCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

(2) REQUIRES A CREDENTIAL, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, POSTSECONDARY TRAINING, ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE, BACHELOR'S DEGREE, MASTER'S DEGREE OR DOCTORAL OR FIRST PROFESSIONAL DEGREE.

"SCHOOL ENTITY." AN AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL, SCHOOL DISTRICT, INTERMEDIATE UNIT, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL, CHARTER SCHOOL OR REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL.

SECTION 2. SECTION 1549.1(L) OF THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING 20190HB0265PN2177

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A PARAGRAPH TO READ:

SECTION 1549.1. COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION EXCELLENCE.--* * *

(L) THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE ALL THE FOLLOWING POWERS AND DUTIES:

* * *

(6) IN CONSULTATION WITH AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEVELOP GUIDELINES TO IDENTIFY THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN A STUDENT WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES AN ACADEMIC COURSE, PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY FOR CREDIT MAY APPLY THE CREDIT TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF AN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM. THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE POSTED ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OF APPROVAL. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL REVIEW THE GUIDELINES AT LEAST EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS. ANY PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE GUIDELINES SHALL BE DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION.

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SECTION 3. SECTION 1855 OF THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SUBSECTION TO READ:

SECTION 1855. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION EQUIPMENT GRANTS.--* * *

(B.1) A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT PURCHASED WITH MONEY FROM THE GRANT PROGRAM MUST SATISFY THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

(1) SUPPORT STUDENT HANDS-ON TRAINING IN APPROVED CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT LEAD TO HIGH-GROWTH OR HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS.

(2) COST THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($3,000) OR MORE PER UNIT OR PER COMPLETE SET OF TOOLS.

(3) RETAIN ITS ORIGINAL SHAPE, APPEARANCE AND CHARACTER WITH
USE.

(4) RETAIN ITS IDENTITY THROUGH FABRICATION OR INCORPORATION INTO A DIFFERENT OR MORE COMPLEX UNIT OR SUBSTANCE.

(5) BE NONEXPENDABLE, SUCH THAT IF THE EQUIPMENT IS DAMAGED OR SOME OF ITS PARTS ARE LOST OR WORN OUT, IT IS MORE FEASIBLE TO REPAIR THE EQUIPMENT THAN TO REPLACE THE EQUIPMENT WITH AN ENTIRELY NEW UNIT.

(6) BE EXPECTED TO SERVE ITS PRINCIPAL PURPOSE FOR MORE THAN A TWELVE-MONTH FISCAL PERIOD UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS OF USE, INCLUDING REASONABLE CARE AND MAINTENANCE.

(7) BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ANY OTHER CRITERIA DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

* * *

SECTION 4. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

SECTION 1856. UTILIZATION OF CREDITS.--THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ISSUE GUIDELINES AND UPDATE THE GUIDELINES EVERY FIVE YEARS TO IDENTIFY THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN A STUDENT WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES A COURSE, PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING OR MATHEMATICS FOR CREDIT MAY APPLY THE CREDIT TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF A COURSE, PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY OFFERED BY ANY AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL, TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 5. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING AN ARTICLE TO READ:

ARTICLE XIX-H

CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE

SECTION 1901-H. DEFINITIONS.

THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

"CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE." A NUMERICAL CODING OF 20190HB0265PN2177
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS DEVELOPED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION USED TO IDENTIFY VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

"DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

"PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL, INTERMEDIATE UNIT OR AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

SECTION 1902-H. ESTABLISHMENT OR RENEWAL OF CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A STANDARD APPLICATION FORM FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY SEEKING APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH OR RENEW A CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE. THE FORM SHALL BE PUBLISHED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE. THE FORM SHALL REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1) THE NAME OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY SEEKING APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH OR RENEW A CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE.

(2) THE TITLE OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE.

(3) THE OCCUPATIONAL COMPETENCY AREA OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE.

(4) A DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE.

(5) A LIST OF SKILLS THAT A STUDENT MUST ATTAIN IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE.

(6) EVIDENCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE FROM THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY.

(7) ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE.

SECTION 1903-H. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.

NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31 OF EACH YEAR, A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY
MAY SUBMIT THE APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 1902-H TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF A CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE.

SECTION 1904-H. NOTICE OF APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF APPLICATIONS.

(A) NOTICE.--NO LATER THAN MAY 31 OF THE YEAR THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AN APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 1902-H, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY WHICH SUBMITTED THE APPLICATION WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT APPROVED OR DENIED THE APPLICATION.

(B) POSTING.--NO LATER THAN JUNE 15 OF THE YEAR THE DEPARTMENT APPROVED THE APPLICATION UNDER SUBSECTION (A), THE DEPARTMENT SHALL POST THE CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM CODE ON ITS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

SECTION 6. SECTIONS 2001-C AND 2003-C OF THE ACT ARE AMENDED TO READ:

SECTION 2001-C. DEFINITIONS.

THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

"ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM." A PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY THE COLLEGE BOARD THAT ALLOWS A STUDENT TO STUDY COLLEGE-LEVEL SUBJECTS WHILE ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL AND TO RECEIVE ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND COLLEGE CREDIT FOR EARNING A QUALIFIED SCORE ON THE COURSE-RELATED ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM EXAM.

"CAREER, TECHNICAL OR APPLIED COURSES." COURSES USUALLY OFFERED AS PART OF AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE CURRICULUM DESIGNED TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR ENTRY-LEVEL PROFESSIONS, NOT FOR TRANSFER TO BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS FOR ADVANCED STUDIES.

"COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM." A SET OF STANDARDIZED TESTS DEVELOPED BY THE COLLEGE BOARD FOR VARIOUS SUBJECTS, AND
ON WHICH A QUALIFYING SCORE CAN BE USED TO EARN COLLEGE CREDIT.

"COMMUNITY COLLEGE." AN INSTITUTION CREATED PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE XIX-A OR THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, NO.484),
KNOWN AS THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACT OF 1963.

"CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING." COLLEGE-LEVEL CREDIT GRANTED
TOWARD THE AWARD OF A POSTSECONDARY DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE FOR
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THAT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THROUGH VARIOUS
MEANS OF ASSESSMENT TO BE THE EQUIVALENT OF LEARNING GAINED
THROUGH FORMAL COLLEGIATE INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING AN ADVANCED
PLACEMENT PROGRAM EXAM, INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA
PROGRAM EXAM, A COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM EXAM AND
DANTES SUBJECT STANDARDIZED TESTS.

"DANTES SUBJECT STANDARDIZED TESTS." A SET OF SUBJECT EXAMS
APPROVED BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION THAT TESTS
KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH LOWER-LEVEL AND UPPER-LEVEL COLLEGE MATERIAL.

["DEGREE OBJECTIVE COURSES." COURSES REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION
OF A MAJOR IN A SUBJECT AREA.]

"DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE
COMMONWEALTH.

"DEVELOPMENTAL OR REMEDIAL COURSES." COURSES TYPICALLY
CONSISTING OF READING, WRITING AND MATH DESIGNED TO PREPARE
STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES AND THAT ARE NOT
TRANSFERABLE.

"EQUIVALENT COURSES." COURSES DETERMINED TO HAVE GENERALLY
EQUIVALENT CONTENT AND LEVEL AS DETERMINED BY THE FACULTY OF AN
INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY AT
EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

"FOUNDATION COURSES." COURSES REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED BY
STUDENTS THAT PROVIDE AN ACADEMIC FOUNDATION FOR THE DEGREE,
GENERAL EDUCATION OR ADVANCED STUDY IN A MAJOR.
"INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION." AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHICH IS OPERATED NOT FOR PROFIT, LOCATED IN AND INCORPORATED OR CHARTERED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND ENTITLED TO CONFER DEGREES AS SET FORTH IN 24 PA.C.S. § 6505 (RELATING TO POWER TO CONFER DEGREES) AND TO APPLY TO ITSELF THE DESIGNATION "COLLEGE" OR "UNIVERSITY" AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO 24 PA.C.S. CH. 65 (RELATING TO PRIVATE COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES).

"INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL." A CREDENTIAL THAT:

(1) IS SOUGHT OR ACCEPTED BY EMPLOYERS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY OR SECTOR INVOLVED AS A RECOGNIZED, PREFERRED OR REQUIRED CREDENTIAL FOR RECRUITMENT, SCREENING, HIRING, RETENTION OR ADVANCEMENT PURPOSES;

(2) WHERE APPROPRIATE, IS ENDORSED BY A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TRADE ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE INDUSTRY OR SECTOR; AND

(3) IS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

"INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION." ANY OF THE ACCREDITED FOLLOWING:

(1) A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(2) A RURAL REGIONAL COLLEGE.

(3) A STATE-RELATED INSTITUTION.

(4) THE THADDEUS STEVENS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY.

"INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM." AN ACADEMICALLY CHALLENGING TWO-YEAR PRECOLLEGE DIPLOMA PROGRAM COMPRISED OF THREE CORE REQUIREMENTS AND SIX ACADEMIC SUBJECT AREAS WITH FINAL EXAMINATIONS THAT PREPARE STUDENTS, 16 TO 19 YEARS OF AGE, FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND LIFE IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY.

"PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION." A COMMUNITY
COLLEGE OR AN INSTITUTION WHICH IS PART OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XX-A.

"PUBLIC SCHOOL." ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

(1) A SCHOOL DISTRICT.

(2) AN INTERMEDIATE UNIT.

(3) AN AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

(4) A CHARTER SCHOOL AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1703-A.

(5) A REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1703-A.

(6) A CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1703-A.

"RURAL REGIONAL COLLEGE." A RURAL REGIONAL COLLEGE OPERATING UNDER ARTICLE XIX-G.

"STATE-RELATED INSTITUTION." THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY AND THEIR BRANCH CAMPUSES.

"TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE." THE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 2004-C.


(B) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.--THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

20190HB0265PN2177
(1) Each public institution of higher education [and state-related institution] shall submit to the Department a series of interim reports that describe the status of the institution's articulation agreements, which shall include all of the following:

(I) The number of students who have transferred to the public institution of higher education [or state-related institution] by institution of origin within the last academic year or since submittal of the institution's last interim report required under this section.

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

(III) The total number of credits from each institution of origin that transferred to the public institution of higher education [or state-related institution] for each academic year.

(IV) An explanation of the credit transfer process at the institution.

(V) Any other information related to the credit transfer process as requested by the Department, including the useability of transfer credits.

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

Section 7. Section 2004-C(A)(1) introductory paragraph is amended and subsection (C) is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

20190HB0265PN2177
SECTION 2004-C. TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

(A) ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.--

(1) IN ORDER TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT EQUIVALENCY STANDARDS AS PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (C)(1) AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS, THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT, THE TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE COMPRISED OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

* * *

(C) DUTIES OF TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.--THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

* * *

(7) MEET ON A REGULAR BASIS AT LEAST QUARTERLY.

SECTION 8. SECTION 2005-C(4) OF THE ACT IS AMENDED TO READ:

SECTION 2005-C. DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

* * *

(4) PROVIDE FOR AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE OR SOFTWARE PROGRAM AND PORTAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ACCESS TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON AN INTERNET WEBSITE:

(I) ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS AND AGREEMENTS THAT AWARD CREDIT FOR AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL ENTERED INTO BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS THAT ELECT TO PARTICIPATE UNDER SECTION 2006-C.] INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS DESCRIBED UNDER CLAUSE (C). THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EXTRACT TRANSFER INFORMATION FROM EACH ARTICULATION AGREEMENT AND EACH AGREEMENT THAT AWARDS CREDIT FOR AN INDUSTRY-
RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL AND ENTER THE INFORMATION INTO
THE ELECTRONIC DATABASE OR SOFTWARE PROGRAM AND
PORTAL AND PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL, USER-FRIENDLY AND
INTERACTIVE SEARCH ENGINE FOR ACCESS TO THE
INFORMATION.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, WITHIN 60 DAYS OF
RECEIVING AN ARTICULATION AGREEMENT OR AGREEMENT THAT
AWARDS CREDIT FOR AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL,
UPDATE THE DATABASE AND POST EACH ARTICULATION
AGREEMENT AND EACH AGREEMENT THAT AWARDS CREDIT FOR
AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL ON ITS PUBLICLY
ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

(C) AN INSTITUTION WHICH IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE
DUTIES UNDER SECTION 2003-C MAY SUBMIT TO THE
DEPARTMENT ANY ARTICULATION AGREEMENT OR AGREEMENT
THAT AWARDS CREDIT FOR AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
CREDENTIAL INTO WHICH THE INSTITUTION ENTERS. EACH
SUBMITTED ARTICULATION AGREEMENT AND EACH AGREEMENT
THAT AWARDS CREDIT FOR AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
CREDENTIAL SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THIS PARAGRAPH.

(II) THE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS
REQUIRED BY SECTION 2004-C(C)(5).

[(III) AT THE REQUEST OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF
HIGHER EDUCATION OR AN INSTITUTION THAT ELECTS TO
PARTICIPATE UNDER SECTION 2006-C, ANY ARTICULATION
AGREEMENTS.]

SECTION 9. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60 DAYS.