

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2447 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY ULLMAN, HILL-EVANS, MILLARD, KINSEY, HOHENSTEIN, BURGOS, KENYATTA, CALTAGIRONE, ROZZI, BRIGGS, McCLINTON, GALLOWAY, WILLIAMS, DONATUCCI, READSHAW, WARREN, DeLUCA, NEILSON, FRANKEL, MURT, WEBSTER, SHUSTERMAN, YOUNGBLOOD, DELLOSO, HOWARD AND MADDEN, APRIL 27, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 27, 2020

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 associate degree for
6 transfer programs.

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 XIX-I

13 ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER PROGRAMS

14 Section 1901-I. Scope of article.

15 This article relates to associate degree for transfer
16 programs.

17 Section 1902-I. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this article

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Community college." A community college under Article XIX-
4 A.

5 "Institution." As defined under section 2001-A.
6 Section 1903-I. Associate degree for transfer programs.

7 (a) General rule.--Beginning with the fall term of the 2021-
8 2022 academic year, a student who earns an associate degree for
9 transfer granted under subsection (b) shall be eligible for
10 transfer into a baccalaureate program at an institution when the
11 student meets both of the following requirements:

12 (1) Completion of 60 semester credit hours that are
13 eligible for transfer to an institution, including both of
14 the following:

15 (i) The community college's general education
16 requirements.

17 (ii) A minimum of 18 semester credit hours in a
18 major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community
19 college.

20 (2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

21 (b) Associate degree for transfer.--A community college
22 shall develop a program and grant associate degrees for transfer
23 to students that meet the requirements under subsection (a).

24 (c) Prohibition.--A community college may not impose any
25 requirements in addition to the requirements under this section
26 for a student to be eligible for the associate degree for
27 transfer and subsequent admission to an institution.

28 (d) Collaboration.--A community college may consider the
29 articulation agreements and other agreements between the
30 respective faculties from the affected community college and

1 institution campuses in implementing the requirements of this
2 section.

3 (e) Credits earned at other community college.--A community
4 college may accept credits earned at other community colleges
5 toward the associate degree for transfer under this section.

6 Section 1904-I. Admission to institution.

7 (a) General rule.--An institution shall guarantee admission
8 with junior status to any community college student who is
9 granted an associate degree for transfer under section 1903-I.

10 (b) Specific majors and campuses.--Admission to an
11 institution does not guarantee admission for a specific major or
12 campus. An institution shall grant a student priority admission
13 to a campus near the student's residence and to a program or
14 major that is similar to the student's community college major
15 or program area of emphasis, as determined by the institution
16 campus to which the student is admitted.

17 (c) Priority.--A student admitted under this article shall
18 receive priority over all other community college transfer
19 students, excluding community college students who have entered
20 into a transfer agreement between a community college and an
21 institution prior to the effective date of this section.

22 (d) Admissions redirection process.--An institution shall
23 develop an admissions redirection process for a student admitted
24 under this article who applies for admission to the institution
25 but is not accepted into the institution's campus to which the
26 student applied.

27 Section 1905-I. Transfer process.

28 (a) Additional courses.--An institution may require a
29 student transferring under this article to take additional
30 courses at the institution so long as the student is not

1 required to take any more than 60 additional semester credit
2 hours at the institution for majors requiring 120 semester
3 credit hours. Specified majors may be exempt from this
4 subsection upon agreement by the Board of Governors of the State
5 System of Higher Education and a community college.

6 (b) Applicability of credits.--Community college transfer
7 credit hours shall not be applicable to upper division
8 requirements at the institution, unless agreed upon by the
9 institution and a community college and the transferred credit
10 hours do not exceed the required 60 semester credit hours
11 required under subsection (a).

12 (c) Similar courses.--An institution may not require a
13 student transferring under this article to repeat courses that
14 are similar to those taken at the community college that counted
15 toward the associate degree for transfer granted under this
16 article.

17 Section 1906-I. Report.

18 (a) General rule.--At the end of the 2021-2022 academic
19 year, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall review
20 and provide a report with an update on the implementation of
21 this article to the following:

22 (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
23 Education Committee of the Senate.

24 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
25 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

26 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
27 Finance Committee of the Senate.

28 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
29 Finance Committee of the House of Representatives.

30 (b) Contents of report.--The report under subsection (a)

1 shall include the following:

2 (1) The outcomes of implementation of this article,
3 including, but not limited to, the following:

4 (i) The number and percentage of community college
5 students who earned an associate degree for transfer and
6 transferred to an institution under this article.

7 (ii) The average number of semester credit hours it
8 takes a community college student earning an associate
9 degree for transfer under this article to transfer to and
10 graduate from an institution, as compared to the average
11 number of semester credit hours it took community college
12 transfer students prior to enactment of this article, and
13 compared to students using other transfer processes
14 available.

15 (iii) Student progression and completion rates.

16 (iv) Other relevant indicators of student success.

17 (v) The degree to which the requirements for an
18 associate degree for transfer take into account existing
19 articulation agreements and the degree to which community
20 colleges facilitate the acceptance of credits between
21 community colleges.

22 (vi) The degree to which institutions were able to
23 accommodate students admitted under this article to a
24 campus of their choice and a major that is similar to the
25 student's community college major.

26 (2) Recommendations for statutory changes necessary to
27 facilitate the goal of a clear and transparent transfer
28 process.

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