
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1323 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY STURLA, HILL-EVANS, N. NELSON, WARREN, SANCHEZ,
DEASY AND SCHWEYER, MAY 5, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 5, 2021

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Higher Education Promotion Task
2 Force and providing for powers and duties of the task force.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
7 Higher Education Promotion Task Force Act.

8 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) This Commonwealth has one of the highest numbers of
11 higher education institutions in the United States.

12 (2) Higher education institutions generate hundreds of
13 millions of dollars in economic benefits and well-paying jobs
14 with benefits to communities where the institutions operate
15 in this Commonwealth.

16 Section 3. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
18 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Higher education institution." A post-secondary educational
3 institution in this Commonwealth, whether public or private,
4 that is licensed to issue degrees by the Commonwealth.

5 "Task force." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Promotion
6 Task Force established in this act.

7 Section 4. Pennsylvania Higher Education Promotion Task Force.

8 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Higher Education
9 Promotion Task Force is established.

10 (b) General duties.--The task force shall:

11 (1) Identify strategies and making short-term and long-
12 term recommendations to enhance the promotion of higher
13 education institutions.

14 (2) Improve competitiveness of higher education
15 institutions to ensure student enrollment is maintained or
16 increased.

17 Section 5. Membership and meetings.

18 (a) Membership.--The task force is comprised of the
19 following:

20 (1) Five members appointed by the Governor. The
21 following shall apply to the members appointed by the
22 Governor:

23 (i) One member must represent Pennsylvania's State-
24 related universities.

25 (ii) One member must represent trade and proprietary
26 schools.

27 (iii) One member must have national marketing
28 experience.

29 (2) One member appointed by the Secretary of Education.

30 (3) One member appointed by the Secretary of Community

1 and Economic Development.

2 (4) Three members appointed by the President pro tempore
3 of the Senate.

4 (5) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House
5 of Representatives.

6 (6) Three members appointed by the minority leader of
7 the Senate.

8 (7) Three members appointed by the minority leader of
9 the House of Representatives.

10 (8) One member appointed by the majority chair of the
11 Senate Education Committee.

12 (9) One member appointed by the minority chair of the
13 Senate Education Committee.

14 (10) One member appointed by the majority chair of the
15 House of Representatives Education Committee.

16 (11) One member appointed by the minority chair of the
17 House of Representatives Education Committee.

18 (12) One member appointed by the chancellor of the
19 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

20 (13) One member appointed by the president and chief
21 executive officer of the Pennsylvania Higher Education
22 Assistance Agency.

23 (14) One member appointed by the president of the
24 Association of Independent Colleges and University of
25 Pennsylvania.

26 (15) One member appointed by the president of the
27 Association of Pennsylvania State Colleges and University
28 Faculties.

29 (b) Chairperson.--The Governor shall select the chairperson
30 of the task force.

1 (c) Appointment.--The members of the task force shall be
2 appointed within 30 days after the effective date of this
3 section.

4 (d) Quorum.--The presence of a majority of the members
5 constitutes a quorum of the task force.

6 (e) Majority vote.--An action of the task force shall be
7 authorized or ratified by a majority vote of the task force's
8 members.

9 (f) Meetings.--

10 (1) The task force shall meet as necessary, but no fewer
11 than six times yearly. The first meeting shall be convened
12 within 45 days after the effective date of this section.

13 (2) Additional meetings may be called by the chairperson
14 as necessary.

15 (3) The chairperson shall schedule a meeting upon
16 written request of two-thirds majority of the members of the
17 task force.

18 (4) A member not physically present may participate by
19 teleconference or video conference.

20 (g) Compensation.--Members of the task force shall not
21 receive compensation but may be reimbursed for reasonable and
22 necessary expenses incurred in service of the task force.

23 Section 6. Additional duties.

24 The task force shall have the following duties:

25 (1) To examine and analyze the existing
26 practices, processes and laws relating to the promotion of
27 higher education institutions.

28 (2) To examine and analyze the existing
29 practices, processes and laws that impact student enrollment
30 in higher education institutions.

1 (3) To examine and analyze the existing
2 practices, processes and laws that impact the economic
3 benefits of higher education institutions.

4 (4) To hold public hearings for the taking of testimony
5 and the requesting of documents.

6 (5) To make relevant recommendations for enhancing the
7 promotion of higher education institutions.

8 (6) To issue a report in accordance with section 9.
9 Section 7. Hearings.

10 The task force may hold public hearings as necessary to
11 obtain the information required to conduct its review.

12 Section 8. Agency cooperation.

13 The Department of Education shall cooperate to provide
14 administrative or other assistance as needed to the task force.

15 Section 9. Reports.

16 (a) Report.--

17 (1) By November 30, 2022, the task force shall prepare
18 and submit a report on the task force's activities, findings
19 and recommendations.

20 (2) The task force shall submit the report to the
21 Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate and the
22 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

23 (3) The task force may file status reports and updates
24 with the Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate
25 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives as the task
26 force deems appropriate.

27 (b) Adoption of report.--A report under this section shall
28 be adopted at a public meeting.

29 (c) Public record.--A report under this section shall be a
30 public record under the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3),

1 known as the Right-to-Know Law.

2 Section 10. Expiration.

3 This act shall expire November 30, 2022.

4 Section 11. Effective date.

5 This act shall take effect immediately.