
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 120 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, HUGHES, L. WILLIAMS, COSTA, PHILLIPS-
HILL, YUDICHAK AND MENSCH, MAY 25, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MAY 25, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Higher
2 Education Equal Opportunity Act of 1971.

3 WHEREAS, The prime sponsor of the Higher Education Equal
4 Opportunity Act was Representative K. Leroy Irvis, the first
5 African American to serve as Speaker of the House in the
6 Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the first to serve in
7 the capacity in any State legislature in the United States since
8 Reconstruction; and

9 WHEREAS, Recognizing the barriers to a college education for
10 low-income and minority students consist of more than just
11 finances, the Act 101 programs provide essential educational
12 support to assist students in reaching their full potential by
13 completing their degrees; and

14 WHEREAS, The Act 101 Program is administered by the
15 Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and is made
16 possible with tax-exemption allocations provided by the
17 Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
18 and support from the Pennsylvania State Treasury; and

1 WHEREAS, The Higher Education Equal Opportunity Act provides
2 participating institutions the flexibility to customize how they
3 offer academic advising, student orientation, tutoring and other
4 counseling services to best meet the diverse and always evolving
5 needs of their students; and

6 WHEREAS, The Act 101 Program served 3,673 students at 33
7 participating institutions of higher education throughout this
8 Commonwealth during the 2019-2020 school year; and

9 WHEREAS, Additionally, the program is having a positive
10 impact on the academic experiences of participating students as
11 exemplified by higher cumulative grade point average in
12 developmental courses, retention rates and graduation rates; and

13 WHEREAS, The tens of thousands of students that have been
14 admitted to colleges because of Act 101 Programs and earned
15 their degrees have returned back to their communities, becoming
16 taxpayers and providing essential services, essentially breaking
17 the cycle of poverty; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the Higher Education
19 Equal Opportunity Act of 1971 and the Act 101 Program on the
20 50th anniversary of its enabling legislation and its service to
21 Pennsylvania students, families and postsecondary institutions.