

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1448 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, MILLARD, GREINER, PICKETT, B. MILLER,
SOLOMON, HICKERNELL, JAMES, TOPPER, FEE, V. BROWN, KAUFFMAN,
PEIFER, OBERLANDER, PHILLIPS-HILL, WARD, SAYLOR, ROEBUCK,
HILL-EVANS, ZIMMERMAN AND MICCARELLI, MAY 25, 2017

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
JUNE 21, 2017

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 higher education
6 accountability and transparency.

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 XX-H

13 HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

14 AND TRANSPARENCY

15 Section 2001-H. Definitions.

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

1 "College Navigator website." The College Navigator website
2 or its successor website operated by the United States
3 Department of Education and required pursuant to 20 U.S.C. §
4 1015a (relating to transparency in college tuition for
5 consumers).

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

8 "Graduation rates." The percentages of full-time
9 undergraduate students enrolled for credit toward a degree,
10 diploma, certificate or other formal credential who are awarded
11 a degree, diploma or certificate within each of the following:

12 (1) 100% of the normal completion time for the student's
13 program.

14 (2) 125% of the normal completion time for the student's
15 program.

16 (3) 150% of the normal completion time for the student's
17 program.

18 "Institution of higher education." The term includes any of
19 the following:

20 (1) A community college operating under Article XIX-A.

21 (2) A university within the State System of Higher
22 Education.

23 (3) The Pennsylvania State University, the University of
24 Pittsburgh, Temple University, Lincoln University or any
25 other institution designated as State-related by the
26 Commonwealth.

27 (4) The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

28 (5) An institution of higher education which is operated
29 not for profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by
30 the Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees as set forth

1 in 24 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees)
2 and is designated as a "college" or "university" as provided
3 for by the standards and qualifications prescribed by the
4 State Board of Education under 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65 (relating to
5 private colleges, universities and seminaries).

6 (6) A private school licensed under the act of December
7 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the Private Licensed
8 Schools Act.

9 "Net tuition and fees." The average total cost of attendance
10 minus the average amount of grant or scholarship aid awarded to
11 a first-time, full-time undergraduate student enrolled for
12 credit toward a degree, diploma, certificate or other formal
13 credential from the Federal Government, the Commonwealth or the
14 institution of higher education.

15 "PHEAA." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance
16 Agency.

17 "Retention rate." The percentage of first-year, full-time
18 undergraduate students enrolled for credit toward a degree,
19 diploma, certificate or other formal credential who continue to
20 be enrolled at an institution of higher education in the
21 following school year.

22 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
23 vocational-technical school, charter school, cyber charter
24 school, or regional charter school.

25 "Total debt." The average per-student cumulative principal
26 borrowed from a loan program, including Federal and State loan
27 programs, institutional loans and private alternate loans made
28 by a bank or lender.

29 Section 2002-H. College Navigator and High Priority

30 Occupations.

1 (a) Duties of department.--The department shall make
2 available on the department's publicly accessible Internet
3 website, in a single location, information that includes, at a
4 minimum, the following:

5 (1) A direct link to the College Navigator website with
6 a description of the uses and features of the College
7 Navigator website.

8 (2) A direct link to the High Priority Occupations
9 publicly accessible Internet website of the Department of
10 Labor and Industry with a description of what high priority
11 occupations are and how they are identified.

12 (b) Duty of PHEAA.--PHEAA shall include a link on its
13 publicly accessible Internet website to information contained on
14 the department's website under subsection (a).

15 (c) Duty of school entities.--Each school entity shall
16 annually provide the information required under subsection (a)
17 to students in grades nine through twelve.

18 Section 2003-H. Comparison tool.

19 (a) Duty of department.--If the United States Department of
20 Education discontinues the publication of the College Navigator
21 website, the department shall make available on the department's
22 publicly accessible Internet website a search tool that allows
23 an individual to compare institutions of higher education that
24 meet certain criteria selected by the individual, including the
25 offering of a particular major or program of study.

26 (b) Requirements.--The comparison tool required under this
27 section must:

28 (1) Be accessible from the department's publicly
29 accessible Internet website.

30 (2) Allow a user to identify and compare institutions of

1 higher education by the following:

2 (i) Programs of study available.

3 (ii) Name.

4 (iii) Physical address.

5 (iv) Total enrollment for the previous academic
6 year.

7 (v) Net tuition and fees per year based on the
8 previous academic year.

9 (vi) Percentages of students receiving:

10 (A) Pell grants.

11 (B) Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity
12 grants.

13 (C) Academic Competitiveness grants.

14 (D) National Science and Mathematics Access to
15 Retain Talent grants.

16 (E) Teacher Education Assistance for College and
17 Higher Education grants.

18 (vii) Average total debt borrowed for undergraduate
19 study.

20 (viii) Graduation and retention rates, including
21 information on average time, in years, to attainment of a
22 degree, diploma, certificate or other formal credential
23 for a full-time student.

24 (ix) Percentage of undergraduate students who have
25 defaulted on their Federal student loans within three
26 years of entering repayment.

27 (X) STATUS AS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OR FOR-PROFIT <--
28 INSTITUTION.

29 (3) Be accessible to the public without requiring
30 registration or use of a user name, password or other user

1 identification.

2 (4) Include a link to the publicly accessible Internet
3 website of the Department of Labor and Industry and a link to
4 the publicly accessible Internet website of each of the
5 institutions of higher education selected.

6 (5) Include a direct link to the High Priority
7 Occupations publicly accessible Internet website of the
8 Department of Labor and Industry with a description of what
9 high priority occupations are and how they are identified.

10 (c) Chart.--The comparison tool required under this section
11 must generate a comparison chart in a grid format that:

12 (1) Lists the institutions of higher education that
13 match a user's search criteria.

14 (2) Provides information for each institution of higher
15 education listed as outlined in subsection (b) (2).

16 (d) Duty of institutions.--If the department is required to
17 develop the comparison tool under subsection (a), each
18 institution of higher education shall provide the information
19 listed in this section, as available, to the department not
20 later than January 1 of each year. If the information required
21 under this subsection is available in an institution of higher
22 education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System
23 report, the institution of higher education may comply with the
24 reporting requirements of this subsection by sending an
25 electronic copy of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data
26 System report to the department. The department shall update the
27 comparison tool as soon as practicable after receiving
28 information from each institution of higher education.

29 (e) WEBSITE.--PHEAA shall include a link on its publicly <--
30 accessible Internet website to the comparison tool required

1 under this section.

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