

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1155 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, APRIL 26, 2024

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, JUNE 10, 2024

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," in miscellaneous provisions relating
6 to institutions of higher education, providing for Higher
7 Education Task Force.

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

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
12 section to read:

13 Section 2004-I. Higher Education Task Force.

14 (a) Establishment.--The Higher Education Task Force is
15 established WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. <--

16 (b) Purpose.--The task force shall meet, discuss and make
17 recommendations to the General Assembly relating to the
18 following with respect to the universities within the State <--

19 System of Higher Education and community colleges COLLEGES AND <--
20 UNIVERSITIES in this Commonwealth:

21 (1) Repurposing underutilized facilities.

1 (2) Increasing community college transfers to all
2 colleges and universities in this Commonwealth.

3 (3) Opportunities for shared educational programming.

4 (4) Opportunities to eliminate inefficient redundancies.

5 (5) Expanding adult education and educational
6 opportunities in underserved areas.

7 (6) Exporting successful educational models for
8 reducing underutilized facilities.

9 (7) Establishing employer incentives to assist employee
10 skills attainment by focusing on career and technology degree
11 programs in high priority occupations for the next five
12 years.

13 (8) Increasing student enrollment from other states.

14 (9) Expanding dual enrollment opportunities with high
15 schools in this Commonwealth.

16 (c) Membership.--The task force shall consist of the
17 following members:

18 (1) Four representatives of the State System of Higher
19 Education who are appointed by its Board of Governors.

20 (2) Four representatives from the community colleges who
21 are appointed by a Statewide association that represents
22 community colleges.

23 (3) One representative from the Pennsylvania College of
24 Technology.

25 (4) One representative from the Thaddeus Stevens College
26 of Technology.

27 (5) One representative from each of the State-related
28 universities.

29 ~~(6) Four representatives from independent colleges in~~ <--
30 ~~this Commonwealth who are appointed by the Governor from~~

~~names submitted to the Governor by independent colleges.~~

(6) FOUR REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INDEPENDENT NONPROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH WHO ARE APPOINTED BY A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS INDEPENDENT NONPROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. <--

(7) Four representatives from private technical colleges, including private schools of cosmetology.

(8) Two school district superintendents who are appointed by a Statewide organization that represents school district superintendents.

(9) Two representatives from career and technology centers appointed by the Governor from names submitted to the Governor by career and technology centers.

(10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL APPOINTED BY A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS. <--

(d) Chair.--The members of the task force shall appoint a chair and vice chair from their membership.

(e) Meetings.--

(1) The task force shall convene its first meeting by July 15, 2025, and other meetings at such times as determined by the chair.

(2) Meetings of the task force shall be subject to 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings).

(F) ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.-- <--

(1) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, MEETING SPACE AND ANY OTHER ASSISTANCE REQUIRED BY THE TASK FORCE TO IMPLEMENT THE TASK FORCE'S DUTIES UNDER THIS SECTION.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL

1 SUPPORT, INCLUDING DATA, RESEARCH AND OTHER ASSISTANCE
2 REQUIRED BY THE TASK FORCE TO IMPLEMENT THE TASK FORCE'S
3 DUTIES UNDER THIS SECTION.

4 ~~(f)~~ (G) Reimbursement of expenses.--Members of the task <--
5 force shall be eligible for reimbursement of reasonable expenses
6 related to their participation in the meetings.

7 ~~(g)~~ (H) Report.--The task force shall prepare a written <--
8 report of its discussions and recommendations and shall, no
9 later than April 30, 2026, file the report with the Education
10 Committee of the Senate, the Education Committee of the House of
11 Representatives, the Appropriations Committee of the Senate and
12 the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.