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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1180 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, STREET, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, COSTA AND  
BROWNE, MAY 30, 2018

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 30, 2018

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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 preliminary provisions, providing  
6 for historically black colleges and universities  
7 coordination; and making an appropriation.

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 127. Historically Black Colleges and Universities  
14 Coordination.--(a) There is established in the Department of  
15 Education an office of Historically Black Colleges and  
16 Universities (HBCU) Excellence which shall be lead by a deputy  
17 secretary.

18 (b) The office shall:

19 (1) Work with departments, the private sector, educational  
20 associations, philanthropic organizations and other partners to

1 increase the role of HBCUs in this Commonwealth to provide the  
2 highest quality education to a greater number of students.

3 (2) Utilize HBCUs to service the Commonwealth's needs, which  
4 shall, at a minimum, include:

5 (i) Strengthening HBCUs participation in State programs.

6 (ii) Fostering and promoting private-sector initiatives and  
7 public-private partnerships while promoting specific areas and  
8 centers of academic research and programmatic excellence at  
9 every HBCU in this Commonwealth.

10 (iii) Improving the availability, dissemination and quality  
11 of information concerning HBCUs to inform public policy and  
12 practice.

13 (iv) Sharing administrative and programmatic practices  
14 within departments for the benefit of every HBCU.

15 (v) Exploring new ways of improving the relationship between  
16 the Commonwealth and HBCUs.

17 (3) Provide appropriate guidance and assistance to  
18 facilitate implementation of this section.

19 (c) The office may enter into one or more memoranda of  
20 understanding with departments on terms deemed by the parties to  
21 be appropriate, mutually beneficial and in the best interests of  
22 HBCUs and the Commonwealth.

23 (d) Each department may create an annual plan strengthening  
24 HBCUs participation in appropriate Federal and State programs  
25 and initiatives. Each department plan shall address, at a  
26 minimum, the department's proposed efforts to:

27 (1) Establish how the department intends to encourage HBCU  
28 competition for grants, contract and cooperative agreement.

29 (2) Identify State programs and initiatives where HBCUs may  
30 be underserved or underused as national resources and improve

1 HBCU participation.

2 (3) Encourage public sector, private sector and community  
3 involvement of HBCUs.

4 (e) If a department creates an annual plan pursuant to  
5 subsection (d), then the department shall:

6 (1) Provide appropriate measurable objectives and annually  
7 assess the department's performance on the goals set in the  
8 department's previous year's plan.

9 (2) Provide a written summary of the objectives and goals to  
10 the chair and minority chair of the Education Committee of the  
11 Senate and the chair and minority chair of the Education  
12 Committee of the House of Representatives within thirty (30)  
13 days of the annual assessment conducted under paragraph (1).

14 (3) Post the annual assessment on the department's publicly  
15 accessible Internet website after a written summary is provided.

16 (f) (1) The office may establish a board of advisors  
17 consisting of no more than twenty-five (25) members appointed by  
18 the office. The board of advisors may not receive compensation  
19 for their time. The board of advisors shall be comprised of  
20 sitting HBCU presidents, private foundations and representatives  
21 from the business, education, entrepreneurial and financial  
22 sectors.

23 (2) The board shall provide advice on:

24 (i) Improving the identity, visibility, distinctive  
25 capabilities and overall competitiveness of HBCUs.

26 (ii) Engaging the philanthropic, business, government,  
27 military, homeland security and education communities in dialog  
28 regarding new HBCU programs and initiatives.

29 (iii) Improving the ability of HBCUs to remain fiscally  
30 secure institutions that can assist the Commonwealth in reaching

1 its education goals.

2 (iv) Elevating public awareness of HBCUs.

3 (v) Encouraging public-private investments in HBCUs.

4 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
6 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Department." Any of the following:

8 (1) The Department of Aging.

9 (2) The Department of Agriculture.

10 (3) The Department of Banking and Securities.

11 (4) The Department of Community and Economic Development.

12 (5) The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

13 (6) The Department of Corrections.

14 (7) The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

15 (8) The Department of Education.

16 (9) The Department of Environmental Protection.

17 (10) The Department of General Services.

18 (11) The Department of Health.

19 (12) The Department of Human Services.

20 (13) The Insurance Department.

21 (14) The Department of Labor and Industry.

22 (15) The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

23 (16) The Department of Revenue.

24 (17) The Department of State.

25 (18) The Department of Transportation.

26 (19) The State System of Higher Education.

27 "HBCU." Historically black colleges and universities in this  
28 Commonwealth.

29 "Office." The Office of HBCU Excellence in the Department of  
30 Education of the Commonwealth.

1       Section 2. The sum of \$250,000, or as much thereof as may be  
2 necessary, is appropriated to the Department of Education for  
3 the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, to carry out the  
4 provisions of section 127 of the act.

5       Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.