

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1000

Sponsor:

Printer's No. 1312

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 6, by striking out "pilot program"

2 Amend Bill, page 1, line 14, by striking out "PILOT PROGRAM"

3 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 15 through 20; pages 2 through 9,
4 lines 1 through 30; page 10, lines 1 through 11, by striking out
5 all of said lines on said pages and inserting

6 Section 1901-G. Scope of article.

7 This article provides for the establishment of a rural
8 regional community college in a multicounty rural area that is
9 underserved by comprehensive community college education and
10 work force development.

11 Section 1902-G. Definitions.

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

15 "Annual." A 12-month period coterminous with the
16 Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

17 "Board of trustees." The board of trustees of a rural
18 regional community college established under this article.

19 "County." Any county in this Commonwealth.

20 "Certified public accountant." A member of the American
21 Institute of Certified Public Accountants who has a minimum of
22 five years' verifiable experience in performing audits of
23 government funds for nonprofit organizations with a comparable
24 or larger annual budget.

25 "Rural regional community college." A public institution
26 which is established in a rural area and operated in accordance
27 with the provisions of this article as a nonprofit organization
28 which provides up to a two-year, postsecondary education not to
29 exceed the level of an associate of arts or sciences degree and
30 which is active in work force development.

31 "Rural regional community college plan" or "plan." A plan
32 for the establishment and operation of a rural regional
33 community college under this article.

34 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth
35 or such person as the secretary may designate to act on behalf

1 of the secretary with regard to any of the duties and
2 prerogatives imposed by this article.

3 "State Board." The State Board of Education.

4 Section 1903-G. Designations by the secretary.

5 (a) Duties of secretary.--

6 (1) Within 30 days of the effective date of this
7 section, the secretary shall designate an established
8 nonprofit organization as defined under section 501(c)(3) of
9 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26
10 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)), which organization represents a rural
11 multicounty region underserved by a comprehensive community
12 college program, including work force development, to assist
13 the secretary with the designation under paragraph (2).

14 (2) Within 30 days of the designation under paragraph
15 (1), the secretary shall, in consultation with the nonprofit
16 organization, designate contiguous counties or parts of
17 contiguous counties to be served by establishment of a rural
18 regional community college.

19 (b) Changes.--No sooner than four years after the effective
20 date of this section, the secretary, with approval of the board
21 of trustees, may add counties or parts of counties to be served
22 by the rural regional community college.

23 Section 1904-G. Designation; board of trustees.

24 Within 60 days of the secretary's designation under section
25 1903-G(a)(2), a board of trustees shall be appointed to
26 establish a rural regional community college. The board of
27 trustees shall consist of not fewer than seven members nor more
28 than 15 members appointed by the secretary in consultation and
29 jointly with the nonprofit organization designated under section
30 1903-G(a)(1). The following shall apply to the board of trustees
31 established under this section:

32 (1) Members of the board of trustees shall be
33 representative of the area designated under section 1903-G(a)
34 (2) and may include school administrators, community
35 education council officials, business leaders and government
36 officials.

37 (2) Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed
38 for terms of three years each, except that those persons
39 initially appointed shall draw lots to determine which
40 trustees shall serve for a term of three years, which
41 trustees shall serve for a term of two years and which
42 trustees shall serve for a term of one year. Thereafter, all
43 members shall be appointed for terms of three years each.

44 (3) Vacancies on the board shall be filled by the
45 existing board. A trustee may succeed himself, provided that
46 no member shall serve for longer than ten years.

47 (4) The secretary shall convene an initial meeting of
48 the board of trustees within 60 days of the secretary's
49 designation under this section. After the initial meeting,
50 the board of trustees shall meet at such times each year as
51 the board of trustees determines to be necessary to satisfy

1 the requirements of this article.

2 (5) The board of trustees shall adopt standing operating
3 rules and procedures, by laws and articles of incorporation.

4 (6) The board of trustees shall establish an advisory
5 committee of presidents, or their designee, from institutions
6 with postsecondary education programs within the region
7 designated under section 1903-G(a)(2). The advisory council
8 shall meet quarterly to discuss employer and work force
9 needs, new educational offerings and general coordination of
10 service and facilities. One advisory council member
11 representing a community college and one advisory council
12 member that is a president of a college or university shall
13 serve as co-chairs.

14 (7) The board of trustees shall choose from among its
15 members a chairman, vice chairman and secretary.

16 (8) A majority of the members of the board of trustees
17 shall constitute a quorum.

18 (9) Trustees shall serve without compensation, except
19 that they shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary
20 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

21 Section 1905-G. Establishment.

22 (a) General rule.--Within one year of its initial meeting,
23 the board of trustees appointed under section 1904-G shall
24 submit to the secretary a proposed rural regional community
25 college plan in such form and containing such information as the
26 secretary may require. In addition to other information which
27 may be required by the secretary, the plan shall include the
28 following:

29 (1) A designation of the name of the proposed rural
30 regional community college which shall be the "Regional
31 Community College of _____ " or "
32 Regional Community College."

33 (2) A survey of the educational, vocational and
34 occupational needs of the area and the means by which the
35 proposed rural regional community college will meet those
36 needs, re-engage high school dropouts to earn their secondary
37 credentials and postsecondary credentials or industry
38 certification, reduce unemployment and improve the employable
39 skills of residents of the area to be served by the rural
40 regional community college.

41 (3) An operating and financial plan for the proposed
42 rural regional community college, including a plan for the
43 capital needs and expenses of the proposed rural regional
44 community college.

45 (4) A plan by which the rural regional community college
46 shall seek accreditation by an accrediting association which
47 is recognized by the United States Department of Education.

48 (b) Submission of plan.--Within 60 days of the submission of
49 the rural regional community college plan to the secretary, the
50 secretary shall issue an approval or rejection of the plan. A
51 rejection of the plan shall be accompanied by a written

1 statement of the reasons for the rejection of the plan. If the
2 plan is rejected, the board of trustees shall submit a revised
3 plan to the secretary within 60 days of the plan's rejection.

4 (c) Plan approval.--Upon the approval of the plan by the
5 secretary, the rural regional community college shall be
6 considered established.

7 Section 1906-G. Powers and duties of board of trustees.

8 (a) General rule.--The board of trustees appointed under
9 section 1904-G shall administer and supervise the affairs of the
10 rural regional community college established under this article.
11 Subject to any other law and to any regulations promulgated by
12 the State Board pertaining to rural regional community colleges,
13 the board of trustees shall have the following powers and
14 duties:

15 (1) To advance the mission of the rural regional
16 community college in service to residents of the region
17 designated under section 1903-G(a) (2).

18 (2) To appoint and fix the salary of a president of the
19 rural regional community college.

20 (3) To appoint and fix the salary of a chief financial
21 officer of the rural regional community college.

22 (4) To hold, rent, lease, sell, purchase and improve
23 land, buildings, furnishings, equipment, materials, books and
24 supplies.

25 (5) To enter into contracts for services with community
26 education councils, schools, colleges or universities, or
27 with school districts or municipalities, and other applicable
28 or appropriate agencies and organizations, to effectuate the
29 purposes of this article.

30 (6) To accept and receive gifts of real and personal
31 property and Federal, State and local moneys, loans and
32 grants, and to expend the same.

33 (7) To make policies providing for the admission and
34 expulsion of students, the courses of instruction, the
35 tuition and fees to be charged and for all matters related to
36 the government and administration of the rural regional
37 community college, provided that policies related to
38 admission, tuition and fees give preference to residents of
39 the area designated by the secretary pursuant to section
40 1903-G(a) (2).

41 (8) To submit to the secretary for approval proposed
42 amendments to the rural regional community college plan.

43 (9) To enter into contracts for services to high schools
44 located in the area designated by the secretary under section
45 1903-G to provide area vocational-technical education
46 services.

47 (10) To approve an annual budget to be submitted to the
48 secretary for funding.

49 (11) To exercise such other powers and perform such
50 other duties as are necessary to effectuate the purposes of
51 this article.

1 (b) Duties of board.--The board of trustees shall enter into
2 contracts, hold property and take other actions in the name of
3 the rural regional community college.

4 (c) Initial partnership.--

5 (1) The board of trustees shall select initially a
6 Middle States accredited institution of higher education as a
7 partner institution to develop and offer accredited courses
8 and programs of study at the approved sites of operation.

9 (2) The partner institution shall select programs in
10 consultation and approval of the board of trustees and
11 consistent with its accreditation and shall be responsible
12 for staffing and evaluation and provision of other support
13 services as may be required for students.

14 (3) The board of trustees may contract with other
15 colleges to provide curricula not available through the
16 partner institution.

17 (4) As the rural regional community college is able to
18 operate on its own, a transition plan and budget shall be
19 included in the contract to efficiently expedite the
20 transition for its partner institution or institutions.

21 (5) Nothing in this article shall be construed to
22 preclude the board of trustees from contracting for specific
23 services or programs following the transition from the
24 initial operating partner institution.

25 Section 1907-G. Officers of rural regional community college.

26 (a) President.--The president shall be the chief executive
27 and administrative officer of the rural regional community
28 college and shall perform all duties which the board of trustees
29 may prescribe. The president shall have the right to attend
30 meetings of the board of trustees and to be heard on all matters
31 before it, but shall have no right to vote on any matter.

32 (b) Chief financial officer.--The chief financial officer of
33 the rural regional community college shall give a proper bond in
34 such amount and with such corporate surety as is approved by the
35 board of trustees. The chief financial officer shall file the
36 bond with the board of trustees. The account of the chief
37 financial officer shall be audited biannually by a certified
38 public accountant or other qualified public accountant selected
39 by the board of trustees.

40 Section 1908-G. Students.

41 Any individual may apply for admission to the rural regional
42 community college established under this article, provided that
43 preference in admissions, tuition and fees may be given to
44 residents of the multicounty area designated by the secretary
45 pursuant to section 1903-G(a) (2). In considering applicants for
46 admission, the rural regional community college shall not
47 discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, marital
48 status, ethnic group or religion.

49 Section 1909-G. Tuition.

50 The tuition and fees charged by the rural regional community
51 college shall be an amount determined by the board of trustees,

1 in accordance with the budget submitted to the secretary. The
2 board of trustees shall annually establish a separate schedule
3 of tuition and fees for students that reside inside the region
4 and students that reside outside the region designated under
5 section 1903-G(a) (2).

6 Section 1910-G. Dissolution and transition of rural regional
7 community college.

8 The rural regional community college established under this
9 article may not be dissolved without the approval of the
10 secretary. Upon dissolution of the rural regional community
11 college, the Commonwealth shall assume all assets and
12 liabilities of the rural regional community college, except that
13 such assets that are the property of any partner institution
14 that may be operating for and within the rural regional
15 community college shall remain the property of the institution.

16 Section 1911-G. Degrees.

17 The rural regional community college established under this
18 article may award any type of diploma, technical or career
19 training certificate or degree not to exceed the level of an
20 associate of arts or sciences degree. As long as the Middle
21 States accredited institution provides the accredited curricula
22 and courses under contract to the rural regional community
23 college, the requirements of the accrediting agency shall
24 pertain to the designation of such awards.

25 Section 1912-G. Funding.

26 The rural regional community college established under this
27 article shall be funded by tuition and fees established by the
28 board of trustees, and may accept appropriations from the
29 General Assembly, grants from the Federal Government, grants
30 from the Commonwealth, grants from private foundations or any
31 combination thereof.

32 Section 1913-G. Financial aid.

33 Students enrolled in the rural regional community college
34 established under this article shall be eligible for financial
35 aid to the extent permitted under Federal and State law.

36 Section 1914-G. Regulations.

37 The State Board may promulgate regulations pursuant to the
38 act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory
39 Review Act, as necessary to implement this article.

40 Section 1915-G. Reports.

41 The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall prepare
42 and submit to the General Assembly written interim and final
43 reports evaluating the operation of this article. The interim
44 report shall be submitted by June 30, 2018, and the final report
45 shall be submitted by June 30, 2022. Each report shall include,
46 but may not be limited to, the following:

47 (1) A review of the success of the rural regional
48 community college established under this article in
49 satisfying the goals set forth in the rural regional
50 community college plan approved by the secretary and in
51 satisfying the needs of the multicounty area the rural

1 regional community college was established to serve.

2 (2) Demographic and program data, including the
3 following:

4 (i) Numbers of full-time and part-time faculty and
5 student enrollments, in total and within curricular
6 areas.

7 (ii) Dual enrollment participation.

8 (iii) Credit hours taught by faculty.

9 (iv) Distance learning courses offered.

10 (v) Articulation agreements with higher education
11 institutions.

12 (vi) Lists of courses with fewer than 20 students.

13 (vii) Lists of courses with more than 50 students.

14 Where available, student data shall be disaggregated by
15 categories, including gender, race and age.

16 (3) Student progress and achievement measures, including
17 the following:

18 (i) Retention rates related to student goals.

19 (ii) Graduation and completion rates after two,
20 three and four years.

21 (iii) Passing rates on certification and licensure
22 examinations.

23 (iv) Number of students employed within one year of
24 program completion.

25 (v) Placement into additional education or
26 employment in the student's field of study.

27 Where available, data shall be disaggregated by categories,
28 including gender, race and age.

29 (4) Economic and work force development measures,
30 including:

31 (i) Employer satisfaction.

32 (ii) Customized job training offerings.

33 (iii) Employment status.

34 (iv) Numbers of businesses and organizations served.

35 (5) Recommendations for future legislation.

36 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.