

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1164 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY MURT, AUMENT, BARRAR, BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, DENLINGER, EVERETT, FRANKEL, GILLEN, GINGRICH, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MOLCHANY, O'BRIEN, PARKER, PASHINSKI, READSHAW, SAYLOR, STEVENSON, TALLMAN, YOUNGBLOOD, GABLER AND ENGLISH, APRIL 9, 2013

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 24, 2013

AN ACT

1 Providing for ~~matriculating~~ veteran students to receive a course <--  
2 scheduling preference at public institutions of higher  
3 education.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Higher  
8 Education Course Scheduling Preference for ~~Matriculating Student~~ <--  
9 ~~Veterans~~ VETERAN STUDENTS Act. <--

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "~~Matriculating veteran student.~~" ~~An individual who:~~ <--

15 (1) ~~is a veteran;~~

16 (2) ~~has received an honorable discharge from any branch~~

1 ~~of the uniformed services;~~

2 ~~(3) has been admitted to a public institution of higher~~  
3 ~~education; and~~

4 ~~(4) resides in this Commonwealth while enrolled at the~~  
5 ~~public institution of higher education.~~

6 "Public institution of higher education." ~~A community~~ <--  
7 ~~college, a State related institution or a member institution of~~  
8 ~~the State System of Higher Education.~~ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: <--

9 (1) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER ARTICLE XIX-A OF THE ACT  
10 OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
11 CODE OF 1949.

12 (2) A STATE-RELATED INSTITUTION, TO INCLUDE THE  
13 PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH,  
14 TEMPLE UNIVERSITY AND LINCOLN UNIVERSITY AND THEIR BRANCH  
15 CAMPUSES.

16 (3) A MEMBER INSTITUTION OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER  
17 EDUCATION UNDER ARTICLE XX-A OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF  
18 1949.

19 "VETERAN." AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

20 (1) HAS SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES,  
21 INCLUDING A RESERVE COMPONENT AND NATIONAL GUARD; AND

22 (2) WAS DISCHARGED OR RELEASED FROM SUCH SERVICE UNDER  
23 CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE.

24 "VETERAN STUDENT." AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

25 (1) IS A VETERAN;

26 (2) HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
27 EDUCATION; AND

28 (3) RESIDES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH WHILE ENROLLED IN THE  
29 PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

30 Section 3. Course scheduling preference.

1 (a) General rule.--Within ~~90~~ 180 days of the effective date <--  
2 of this section, a public institution of higher education shall  
3 provide ~~matriculating student veterans with the same~~ VETERAN <--  
4 STUDENTS WITH preference in course scheduling ~~as the preferences~~ <--  
5 ~~provided for upper classmen and other students that receive~~  
6 ~~priority scheduling at the public institution of higher~~  
7 ~~education.~~ PURSUANT TO GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF <--  
8 EDUCATION UNDER SUBSECTION (B).

9 (B) GUIDELINES.--WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
10 THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH  
11 PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL DEVELOP  
12 GUIDELINES UNDER WHICH PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
13 SHALL PROVIDE PREFERENCE IN COURSE SCHEDULING TO VETERAN  
14 STUDENTS.

15 ~~(b)~~ (C) Existing policies.--If, ~~on~~ WITHIN 180 DAYS OF the <--  
16 effective date of this section, a public institution of higher  
17 education has established and implemented a policy ~~relating to~~ <--  
18 ~~preference in course scheduling that includes veterans and the~~  
19 ~~policy complies with this act, the public institution of higher~~  
20 ~~education shall not be required to establish and implement a new~~  
21 ~~policy under the provision of this act.~~ UNDER WHICH VETERAN <--  
22 STUDENTS ARE PROVIDED WITH PREFERENCE IN COURSE SCHEDULING, THE  
23 PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE  
24 IN COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A).

25 Section 4. Effective date.

26 This act shall take effect immediately.