

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1552 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ROAE, SONNEY, MALONEY, JAMES, DRISCOLL, TOPPER,
DAVIS, PHILLIPS-HILL, MILLARD, READSHAW, WATSON, EVANKOVICH,
RAPP, MURT AND SANTORA, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

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 powers and duties of the Secretary of Education.

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 a
11 section to read:

12 Section 124. Powers and Duties of the Secretary of
13 Education.--(a) On behalf of the Commonwealth, the Secretary of
14 Education shall have the authority and duty to enter into and
15 administer membership in a regional compact and an interstate
16 reciprocity agreement for the provision of postsecondary
17 distance education by the following:

18 (1) Institutions of higher education to students in other
19 states, territories and districts party to such agreement.

1 (2) Postsecondary institutions in other states, territories
2 or districts that are a party to such agreement to students in
3 this Commonwealth.

4 (b) The Department of Education may charge administrative
5 fees to institutions of higher education that choose to
6 participate in the agreement, not to exceed the amount necessary
7 to pay the administrative costs of the agreement. The department
8 may promulgate final-omitted regulations pursuant to the act of
9 June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review
10 Act," necessary to implement this subsection, provided that such
11 final-omitted regulations shall expire June 30, 2018. After June
12 30, 2018, any revisions to the administrative fees charged under
13 this subsection shall be made through regulations promulgated
14 under the Regulatory Review Act.

15 (c) The Postsecondary Distance Education Interstate
16 Reciprocity Agreement Restricted Receipts Account is established
17 as a special restricted receipts account within the General Fund
18 of the State Treasury, from which the Department of Education
19 may draw moneys for the purpose of agreement expenses, the costs
20 of administering and implementing the agreement and all other
21 costs associated with the activities of the department related
22 to implementation of this section. This account shall consist of
23 all administrative fees deposited under subsection (b) and State
24 funds appropriated for use under this section. The restricted
25 receipts account shall be subject to audit by the Auditor
26 General.

27 (d) For purposes of this section, "institution of higher
28 education" shall have the meaning given in section 118.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.