



Senate Education Committee

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SENATE BILL 1200-SENATOR SCARNATI

SYNOPSIS:

Repeals the provisions of the Rural Regional Community College in the Fiscal Code and enacts them as a new article in the Public School Code.

SUMMARY:

Amends the Public School Code to enact a new article pertaining to the Rural Regional College for Underserved Counties. This language is currently contained in the Fiscal Code.

Maintains the language from the Fiscal Code that provides for the establishment of a rural regional college in a multicounty rural area that is underserved by comprehensive community college education and work force development.

Makes the following changes to the article: States that appropriations for the operation of a rural regional college shall have preferred status and be considered ordinary expenses of state government. Updates effective dates. In addition to powers already conferred, requires the board of trustees to work with the president in the appointment of faculty and to affix compensation, appoint legal counsel and exercise such other powers as are necessary to effectuate the act.

Provides that appropriations for the rural community college made in 2014 shall not lapse. Provides for funding for the current fiscal year.

Repeals inconsistent acts.

Effective Date: Immediately.

BILL HISTORY:

This legislation was originally passed by the Senate as SB 1000 3/19/14 (42-4). It was added to HB 278, a Fiscal Code bill and received final passage in the House, 7/2/14 (121-18), final passage in the Senate 7/8/14 (26-22) and was approved by the Governor 7/10/14 as Act No. 126.

Implementation

- On September 2, 2014, the Secretary of the Department of Education designated a nine- county area to be served by the college: Cameron, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Potter, Venango and Warren
- On November 2, 2014, the Secretary of the Department of Education appointed the 15 members of the Board of Trustees representing all nine counties.
- On December 2, 2104, the Secretary of Education convened the initial meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- Since that time, the Board of Trustees has met regularly to fulfill its requirement to complete and submit a “Rural Regional College Plan” to be approved by the Secretary of the Department of Education and receive official establishment of the Rural Regional College of Northwest Pennsylvania.

Prepared by: Phenicie 4/7/2016