

**General Assembly of Pennsylvania House Bill No. 1614 (2009) § 1737-J  
20090HB1614PN2799 -**

**Section 1737-J. State System of Higher Education.**

The following shall apply to appropriations for the State System of Higher Education from the General Appropriation Act:

- (1) Each public institution of higher education as defined in Article XX-C of the Public School Code of 1949 shall do all of the following:
  - (i) Agree to accept with full junior standing the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree into a parallel baccalaureate program as outlined in subparagraph (iii) by the timelines established by the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee but no later than December 31, 2011. For purposes of this paragraph, an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree is a degree designed primarily for transfer to a baccalaureate institution and must contain a minimum of 60 credits.
  - (ii) Submit to the Department of Education interim reports outlining the actions that the public institution of higher education has undertaken or intends to undertake to comply with subparagraph (i), which shall be filed by December 31, 2009, June 30, 2010, and December 31, 2010.
  - (iii) As a member of the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee established in section 2004-C of the Public School Code of 1949:
    - (A) By December 1, 2009, consult with the Department of Education on a process and timeline, subject to approval by the department, to identify the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree aligned with the graduation requirements of the parallel baccalaureate degree in all public institutions of higher education in consultation with faculty and personnel.
    - (B) Identify Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree programs for transfer with full junior standing into a parallel baccalaureate degree in consultation with faculty and personnel in those degree programs by December 31, 2011.
    - (C) Identify modifications that may be required in existing associate or baccalaureate degrees to satisfy external accreditation or licensure requirements in consultation with faculty and personnel. Approved modifications shall recognize all competencies attained within either the associate or baccalaureate programs.
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    - (D) Define requirements, in consultation with faculty and personnel, for education degrees, including Early Childhood Education degrees, leading to certification to be included in an associate degree and to be accepted for transfer with full junior standing into a parallel baccalaureate degree program.

(2) (Reserved).

**Section 1737.1-J. State-related institutions.**

The following shall apply to State-related institutions:

- (1) (i) No later than June 15, 2010, each State-related institution shall identify 30 credit hours of course content from equivalent courses identified under Article XX-C of the Public School Code of 1949 that it will accept from a student accepted for transfer from an institution of higher education participating in Article XX-C of the Public School Code of 1949. A State-related institution shall count a course in the same manner that it would count the same or equivalent course if taken by a student at the State-related institution.
  - (ii) Each State-related institution shall make the information identified in subparagraph (i) available to the Department of Education for posting on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

(iii) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to:

- (A) Require a State-related institution to apply a course to graduation or degree requirements if that course or its equivalent course would not be applied to graduation or degree requirements if taken at the State-related institution.
- (B) Infringe on a State-related institution's sole authority to accept a student for transfer, to determine acceptance into a major, to determine the campus assignment of such student or to determine how many and which credit hours shall apply for the transfer student toward the completion of a degree. The manner in which accepted courses apply toward completion of a degree and whether they are counted for general education, major or free elective credit shall be subject to the requirements established by the accepting State-related institution for each individual major or program of study.
- (C) Prohibit a State-related institution's ability to enter into discussions with the Department of Education to increase the number of credits pursuant to subparagraph (i).(iv) For the purpose of this paragraph, "State related institution" shall have the meaning given to it in Article XX-C of the Public School Code of 1949.

(2) (Reserved).

**Section 1722-J. Department of Education.**

(18) Community colleges shall comply with the provisions of section 1737-J.