

FISCAL NOTE

April 9, 2018

Bill No:	HB 1448	Printer's No:	2921	Sponsor:	Cutler (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2017-18	2018-19
General Fund	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: The bill would require the Department of Education (PDE) to create and maintain an online comparison tool for institutions of higher education in the event the United States Department of Education (USDE) discontinues the publication of the College Navigator website.

ANALYSIS: Currently, the USDE operates the College Navigator website for prospective students to compare institutions of higher education across the nation.

The bill would require PDE to provide direct links to the USDE College Navigator, for as long as it is active, and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's list of High Priority Occupations on their respective websites.

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) would be required to include a link on its website to the newly created links on PDE's website. In addition, all public school entities would be required to provide this information annually to all students in grades nine through twelve.

Should the USDE discontinue the College Navigator, the bill would require PDE to create a similar online tool with Pennsylvania college data. The replacement tool would make available the following information, at a minimum, for comparison:

- Institution name
- Institution address
- Programs of study
- Total academic year enrollment
- Previous year net tuition and fees (average cost of attendance less average grants/scholarships awarded)
- Percentage of students receiving Pell grants
- Percentage of students receiving Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants
- Percentage of students receiving Academic Competitiveness grants
- Percentage of students receiving National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent grants
- Percentage of students receiving Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education grants
- Average debt borrowed for undergraduate study

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- Graduation and retention rates
- Percentage of students defaulting on repayment of their federal student loans
- Status of the college as either a non-profit or for-profit institution.

The tool would be able to generate a grid that lists the institutions with the user's search criteria and provides the required information for each institution listed. Additionally, the tool would be available for free and would not require registration, usernames or passwords.

The PDE website would also contain links to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's website, its listing of High Priority Occupations, and the individual institution websites.

PHEAA's website would also be required to contain a link to the new comparison tool.

Each higher education institution would be required to provide the information required to update the tool to PDE by January 1 of each year. The legislation defines an institution of higher education to include Pennsylvania community colleges, universities within the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education (PASSHE), the Pennsylvania State University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University, Lincoln University or any other state-related university, the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, Rural Regional College, institutions that confer degrees and that are located and operated in the commonwealth, any institution licensed under the Private Licensed Schools Act, and out-of-state corporations approved to operate educational enterprises in Pennsylvania.

The act would take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT: As long as USDE publishes and maintains the College Navigator, there would be no fiscal impact to the commonwealth. However, should USDE discontinue the College Navigator, PDE estimates that the commonwealth would incur costs exceeding \$250,000 annually to collect data from institutions and maintain the comparison tool and would have start-up costs to create the tool of at least \$200,000.