



# Senate Education Committee

Senator Mike Folmer  
Chairman

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## BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 78, Printer's No. 43

Prime Sponsor: Senator Greenleaf

### A. SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 78 amends the Higher Education Scholarship Law to provide for online courses.

### B. BILL ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 78 amends the Higher Education Scholarship Law by expanding eligibility for a state scholarship to include online courses, regardless of the percentage of credit or clock hours required to complete a program of study.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

### C. AMENDMENT A02020 TO SB 78:

Amendment A02020 rewrites the bill to create the Distance Education Program within the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to provide for grants to students enrolled in approved distance education programs.

PHEAA would be responsible for administration of the distance education program and may establish guidelines to fulfill its responsibilities. It is also permitted to collect student and school data so long as it complies with the rights and responsibilities of the Pennsylvania State Grant Program.

Eligible higher education institutions must apply to PHEAA to participate in the Distance Education Program. Once approved, a student enrolled in an approved higher education institution's distance education program shall submit an application for a State grant. If eligible, the student may receive a state grant so long as resources are available. This grant may not exceed the per year amount under the State grant program.

The Distance Education Program shall apply to academic years 2013-2014 through 2017-2018 and expire on June 30, 2018.

It also changes the effective date to July 1, 2013 or immediately, whichever is later.

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