



Senate Education Committee

Senator Mike Folmer
Chairman

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BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 1205, Printer's No. 1632

Prime Sponsor: Senator Folmer

SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 1205 amends Title 24 (Education) to establish requirements for colleges to change designations from "college" to "university."

BILL ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 1205 amends Title 24 (Education) to permit private non-profit institutions, with the authority to confer bachelor's degrees, to change their designation from "college" to "university" by submitting to the Department of Education a notarized affidavit and any corresponding documentation which declares that the institution fulfills at least two of the three units necessary to become a university, commits to meet any additional unit within five years, has been in continuous operation in Pennsylvania for ten years, maintains good standing, compliance and accreditation with the appropriate accreditation body, and provides that the institution's board of trustees has approved the change of designation.

The three units required for a college to become a university include: 1) at least one undergraduate major in both the arts and the sciences; 2) advanced degree programs in the arts and sciences with at least one major in both the arts and sciences at the undergraduate level; 3) any combination of at least five advanced degrees or professional programs at the graduate level. The college must also offer community opportunities.

Within 60 days, the department must review the affidavit allowing for the college to become a university and publish the approval notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. If the department fails to act on the affidavit, it shall be deemed approved. Any affidavit that is not in compliance shall be rejected and returned to the college with the reason for the rejection. The college may submit a corrected or new affidavit to the department at any time.

Within 90 days of the change in designation, the university must submit to the department its five year plan to fulfill any additional unit necessary for compliance with the definition of "university." If the university fails to complete the plan within five years, the university shall lose its "university" status. An extension may be granted if the university is making progress toward meeting the additional unit.

Effective Date: Immediately.

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