



Senate Education Committee

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BILL SUMMARY
Senate Bill 1133, Printer's No. 1340
Prime Sponsor: D. White

A. SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 1133 would amend the Pennsylvania Public School Code (School Code) to allow institutions within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), in addition to Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), to offer doctoral degrees under certain conditions.

B. BILL ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 1133 would amend provisions of section 2003-A of the School Code, related to purposes and general powers of PASSHE.

First, the bill would remove a provision requiring that all doctoral level instruction be offered jointly with IUP or with an institution chartered to offer work at the doctoral level.

Second, the bill would add a new subsection (a.1) to section 2003-A. The new subsection (a.1) would provide that, notwithstanding authority granted to IUP under the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Act, all PASSHE institutions may provide doctoral level instruction in areas of study leading to professional doctoral degrees, which are also known as applied doctoral degrees. IUP would remain the only PASSHE institution with authority to offer a doctor of philosophy degree (PhD). Senate Bill 1133 would require that all professional doctoral degree programs be approved by the PASSHE board prior to being offered and that institutions offering such degrees comply with all criteria established by the PASSHE board and satisfy all requirements the PASSHE board deems necessary, including:

- Institutional mission, plan and readiness.
- Need for the program.
- Academic integrity.
- Cooperation with other institutions, agencies or organizations.

- Assessment and accreditation.
- Resource sufficiency.
- Educational opportunity.

The bill would take effect immediately upon enactment.

C. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EXISTING LAW:

Under current law, IUP is the only PASSHE institution that is permitted to offer a doctoral degree independently.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1133

Sponsor:

Printer's No. 1340

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 5, by inserting after "thereto,"
2 in State System of Higher Education,

3 Amend Bill, page 2, line 11, by striking out "Schools" and
4 inserting

5 Institutions

6 Amend Bill, page 2, line 11, by inserting after "at"
7 the

8 Amend Bill, page 2, line 15, by striking out "all
9 institutions of the system" and inserting

10 each institution

11 Amend Bill, page 2, line 23, by striking out "Institutions"
12 and inserting

13 Each institution

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. **1133** Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY D. WHITE, ALLOWAY, GREENLEAF AND MENSCH,
JUNE 14, 2011

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 14, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," further providing for purposes and
6 general powers.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 2003-A(a) of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
11 amended July 11, 1990 (P.L.424, No.103), is amended and the
12 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

13 Section 2003-A. Purposes and General Powers.--(a) The State
14 System of Higher Education shall be part of the Commonwealth's
15 system of higher education. Its purpose shall be to provide high
16 quality education at the lowest possible cost to the students.
17 The primary mission of the system is the provision of
18 instruction for undergraduate and graduate students to and
19 beyond the master's degree in the liberal arts and sciences and
20 in applied fields, including the teaching profession. [Graduate

1 instruction at the doctoral level, except for doctoral programs
2 provided for in the act of December 16, 1965 (P.L.1113, No.430),
3 known as the "Indiana University of Pennsylvania Act," only may
4 be offered jointly with Indiana University or an institution
5 chartered to offer work at the doctoral level.] Programs of
6 research and service may be provided which are approved by the
7 Board of Governors, and which are consistent with the primary
8 mission of the system. Each institution shall provide
9 appropriate educational facilities, student living facilities
10 and such other facilities as deemed necessary by the board.

11 (a.1) Schools may give graduate instruction at doctoral
12 level in accordance with the following:

13 (1) Notwithstanding the authority granted to Indiana
14 University of Pennsylvania as provided in the "Indiana
15 University of Pennsylvania Act," all institutions of the system
16 shall have the authority to provide graduate instruction at the
17 doctoral level in areas of study leading to professional
18 doctoral degrees, which are also known as applied doctoral
19 degrees. Only Indiana University of Pennsylvania shall have the
20 authority to offer a doctor of philosophy degree.

21 (2) All professional doctoral degree programs must be
22 approved by the board prior to being offered by an institution.
23 Institutions offering professional doctoral degrees shall comply
24 with all criteria established by the board and satisfy all
25 requirements deemed necessary by the board. The criteria shall
26 include:

27 (i) Institutional mission, plan and readiness.

28 (ii) Need for the program.

29 (iii) Academic integrity.

30 (iv) Cooperation with other institutions, agencies or

1 organizations.

2 (v) Assessment and accreditation.

3 (vi) Resource sufficiency.

4 (vii) Educational opportunity.

5 * * *

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.