

# FISCAL NOTE

October 2, 2019

<b>Bill No:</b>	HB 265	<b>Printer's No:</b>	2177	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Staats (R)
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### COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2019-20	2020-21
General Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	\$1.22 million

**SUMMARY:** This bill expands an established course transfer database, provides for recruitment of students, and provides for an application for renewal of a classification of program code.

**ANALYSIS:**

**Student recruitment**

School entities shall also offer representatives of skilled trades, publicly identified priority occupations, area vocational-technical schools, community colleges, institutions of higher education, and military the opportunity to deliver information regarding employment opportunities and recruit students.

The Department of Education (PDE) shall develop relevant standard informational materials annually and guidelines to assist school entities with implementation.

**Classification of instructional programs**

PDE shall also establish a standard application form for a public school entity seeking approval to establish or renew a classification of program code as outlined in the bill. Applications shall be approved or denied by PDE by May 31 of the year the application is received, and if approved, posted no later than June 15.

**Articulation agreement database**

The Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence shall be responsible for, in consultation with PDE, developing guidelines every five years to identify when a student could transfer successful credit completion towards an agricultural education program.

PDE shall issue guidelines every five years to identify when a student could transfer successful credit completion in science, technology, engineering or mathematics towards any area vocational-technical school, technical institute or vocational school or department.

Each higher education institution and public school shall provide the established Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee within PDE with copies of all articulation agreements for inclusion in the electronic database within 180 days of the effective date of the act and within 30 days of entering into any articulation agreement. The committee shall be responsible for overseeing the electronic database.

This bill also establishes career and technical education equipment grant criteria.

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The act shall take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Informational materials developed by PDE for student recruitment will incur a minimal fiscal impact if permitted to be provided online.

Costs incurred for classification of instructional programs will incur a cost of approximately \$20,000 to the department depending on the number of schools that apply. For each new code, PDE must develop an aligned curriculum, develop of an end-of-course exam unless it already exists, secure test takers, or issue a waiver.

In order to implement the articulation agreement provision, PDE will incur a total cost of \$1.2 million including \$300,000 for staff and \$900,000 in technical costs.

While there is an existing database for such information, only 14 community colleges and 14 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities are required to participate. Therefore, seven new public colleges or universities and 779 public schools would need to be added under the bill.

The database is currently administered by AcademyOne as a result of a competitive bid process and carries an average annual subscription cost of \$1,169 per school over the next four years.

Cost	Cost per unit	Total Cost
Two Higher Education Associates	\$150,000	\$300,000
785 new database subscriptions	\$1,169 (average)	\$900,000
New classification code assesment	\$10,000	\$10,000
Classification code pilot testing	\$10,000	\$10,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.22 million</b>