
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. **502** Session of
1961

INTRODUCED BY MR. STIEFEL, APRIL 10, 1961.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
APRIL 10, 1961.

AN ACT

Making an appropriation to the Trustees of Hareum Junior College in
Bryn Mawr Pennsylvania

"Our colleges and universities represent our ultimate educational resource. In these institutions are produced the leaders and other trained persons whom we need to carry forward to our highly developed civilization. If the colleges and universities fail to do their job, there is no substitute to fulfill their responsibility.

EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter stricken through is to be omitted from bill. Underscoring indicates new matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

“The national interest requires an educational system on the college level sufficiently financed and equipped to provide every student with adequate physical facilities to meet his instructional research and residential needs

“Our colleges already hard-pressed to meet rising enrollments since 1950 during a period of rising costs will be in critical straits merely to provide the necessary facilities much less the cost of quality education”

These are the words of President Kennedy in his historic message to Congress on the subject of the Nation's educational future

The crisis that he described is felt to some degree in every state. However in a Commonwealth such as Pennsylvania a Keystone in American education since Colonial days the college crisis is intensified

The shortage of college classrooms and teachers in the next ten years which will see twice the number of high school applicants knocking on college doors is bound to produce an explosion as the irresistible force meets the immovable object

A possible solution lies in drawing off from the four-year colleges the applicants who as statistics show will only remain in two years or

less One-half of those who enter a four-year college do not graduate as a national average

There is a college designed exactly for such students the two-year or junior or community college Since the creation of its prototype about sixty years ago the junior college has evolved into America's fastest-growing educational institution endorsed by leading educational statesmen and investigating commissions

Today there are seven hundred junior colleges in the United States with a million students One student in every four now begins his higher education in a junior college By 1975 when the flood tide of students swells to its crest predictions are that the ratio will be one student in a junior college for every two in a four-year college Already California's seventy-one junior colleges enroll seventy-three per cent of the state's college students below the third year

Pennsylvania has one hundred nine different institutions of higher learning Less than two per cent of our college students are in junior colleges Using the experience of other states we may with certainty anticipate the greatest expansion of higher education to take place in this small area The great colleges and universities are almost at

their limits of expansion The junior colleges now emerge as the great frontier in collegiate education

Philadelphia one of the greatest educational and cultural centers of our Nation is sadly lacking in its junior college facilities With no dearth of universities colleges medical schools and art academies in the Greater Philadelphia area there is only one nonsectarian independent junior college Harcum Junior College A two-year college for women in Bryn Mawr it was founded in 1915 and reorganized in 1953 with a nonprofit charter granted by the Commonwealth and approved by our State Council of Education

It has attempted to keep pace with increasing demands on its facilities from a growing number of young women who seek education beyond the high school In its current year there are approximately two hundred fifty residential and day students enrolled in two-year curricula in liberal arts general studies dental hygiene occupational and physical therapy executive and medical secretarial medical technology retail merchandising journalism and nursery school education

This year there are students from twenty states and twelve students from eight foreign countries Virtually all of the foreign students are

on scholarships granted by the Board of Managers as their small effort in spreading international understanding of America and our people

The majority of Harcum students nevertheless are residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania These young women are acquiring a background and skills in order to take up their responsibilities at the ballot box in the home and in the American economy

Harcum is dedicated to fitting out a young woman with a broad foundation in the traditional cultural subjects capped off with a saleable skill or profession With this training she has the equipment both to mature as an individual and to support herself and our national economy

Harcum Junior College is also fulfilling another traditional role of the junior college that of providing continuing education to the adults of its community In the fall winter and spring evenings and during the summer mornings adults mostly mature women take advantage of Harcum's nonprofit courses in shorthand typing medical office practices and medical laboratory procedures The latter two are original with Harcum whose administrators and faculty saw the need for such medical office laboratory training and proceeded to fill the need These graduates are now performing vital duties in hospital and physicians' laboratories and offices

Thus Harcum an independent junior college is educating two important groups of citizens our young women who otherwise might be denied a college education in a four-year institution and our adults who have but evenings and summer hours to get their only chance for further training

For these two educational services a unique combination in our entire Commonwealth Harcum Junior College merits the financial support which will enable its classrooms to be opened to many more of our citizens in the crucial years to come

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows

- 1 Section 1 The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)
- 2 or as much thereof as may be necessary is hereby specifically appropri-
- 3 ated to the Trustees of Harcum Junior College Bryn Mawr Pennsyl-
- 4 vania for the fiscal period beginning June 1 1961 for the general main-
- 5 tenance and expansion of the junior college and the purchase of such
- 6 apparatus and equipment as the Trustees may deem necessary for the
- 7 best interests of the college

We certify that this bill has passed the Senate and the House of
Representatives.

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Chief Clerk, Senate

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President pro tempore, Senate

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Speaker, House of Representatives

Approved The day of A. D. 1861.

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Governor