

No. 1980-126

AN ACT

HB 2159

Amending the act of March 28, 1974 (P.L.228, No.50), entitled "An act providing for the annual announcement of grants by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency; authorizing the continuing appropriation of certain funds; and providing for the manner in which certain appropriations may be revised," further providing for coordination with Federal financial aid programs.

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

Section 1. The title and sections 1, 2 and 4, act of March 28, 1974 (P.L.228, No.50), referred to as the Higher Education Assistance Continuation Law, are amended to read:

AN ACT

Providing for the annual announcement of grants by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency; authorizing the continuing appropriation of certain funds; *providing for coordination with available Federal programs*; and providing for the manner in which certain appropriations may be revised.

Section 1. In order to encourage needy students to make timely application for enrollment in postsecondary educational programs, *and coordinate the State and Federal evaluation and announcement of the student's eligibility to receive financial aid*, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency annually, on the [first] *fifteenth* day of [May] *March*, shall have the authority to announce the scholarships and educational assistance grants to be awarded by the agency for the next succeeding academic year pursuant to the provisions of the act of January 25, 1966 (P.L.1546, No.541), entitled "An act providing scholarships and providing funds to secure Federal funds for qualified students of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who need financial assistance to attend postsecondary institutions of higher learning, making an appropriation, and providing for the administration of this act," and the act of October 11, 1972 (P.L.909, No.216), known as the "Veterans' Education Act of 1971," and the act of October 11, 1972 (P.L.899, No.213), entitled "An act providing scholarships for certain dependents of members of the armed services who while on active duty are taken as prisoners of war or are reported missing in action and making an appropriation," not to exceed the amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year.

Section 2. In order to carry out the provisions of section 1 of this act, any appropriation effective during any fiscal year providing moneys to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency for

scholarship grants shall, if the General Assembly does not provide by law prior to **[May 1] March 15** of the same fiscal year, to increase, lower or terminate the appropriation, be deemed to be reenacted for the ensuing fiscal year in the same amount and for the same purpose as provided in such appropriation: Provided, however, That the reenacted appropriation shall not be effective until the first day of the ensuing fiscal year.

Section 4. If the General Assembly at any time hereafter shall enact legislation to reduce appropriations for scholarship grants prior to the **[first] fifteenth** day of **[May] March** such enactment shall be applicable to the next succeeding academic year. Should such enactment be made after the **[first] fifteenth** of **[May] March**, the provisions thereof shall be applicable to the academic year following the next succeeding academic year.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 11th day of July, A. D. 1980.

DICK THORNBURGH