

No. 1984-110

AN ACT

HB 2291

Establishing a program within the Department of Commerce to provide grants to engineering degree-granting schools to assist in the acquisition of new engineering equipment or the upgrading of existing engineering equipment that is necessary to provide students with the courses required to obtain a degree in engineering; and making a nonlapsing appropriation.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Engineering School Equipment Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Board.” The Board of the Ben Franklin Partnership Fund provided for in section 448(n) of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929.

“Department.” The Department of Commerce.

“Engineering degree-granting school.” An institution of higher education which offers curriculum in engineering or engineering technology which has been approved by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) and is recognized as such by the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers.

“Equipment.” Basic instructional equipment of an engineering nature used in the teaching of undergraduate or graduate engineering or engineering technology.

“Full-time equivalent engineering student.” The enrollment in baccalaureate and graduate programs of engineering schools expressed in terms of full-time students as determined by the Department of Education.

Section 3. Engineering equipment acquisition and upgrade.

(a) Program.—There is established within the department a program to provide grants to engineering degree-granting schools. The program shall be administered by the board. Funds provided through this program shall be used exclusively for the acquisition of new engineering equipment and the upgrading of existing engineering equipment that is necessary to provide students with the courses required to obtain a baccalaureate or graduate engineering degree. The board shall:

(1) Promulgate such policies, develop such forms and institute such procedures as may be necessary to implement this act.

(2) Allocate to each engineering school funds for which it is eligible under this act.

(3) Approve or disapprove any request for expenditures for the purchase or upgrading of equipment.

(4) Require such information and records from each engineering school as it deems necessary.

(5) Request the Department of Education to certify to the board the full-time equivalent enrollment of baccalaureate and graduate engineering students at each engineering school in the most recent year for which data are available.

(b) Allocation of funds.—The funds provided for in this act shall be allocated by the board for grants to the engineering degree-granting schools based on the ratio of full-time equivalent students enrolled in baccalaureate and graduate engineering programs at each school to the total number of full-time equivalent undergraduate and graduate engineering students in the Commonwealth.

(c) Expenditure of funds.—All grants made to engineering degree-granting schools shall be expended only for equipment. No engineering school shall expend any grant funds on equipment unless it also expends funds obtained from private sources on that equipment. At least \$3 of private funds shall be required for each \$1 of grant funds from this program. Grants made under this act shall not be used to supplant existing Federal, State or local funds for the acquisition or upgrading of engineering equipment.

(d) Distribution of unused funds.—Any allocated funds which have not been expended consistent with subsection (c) by June 30, 1986, shall be available for reallocation by the board.

Section 4. Indicators of program impact.

The department shall report to the General Assembly by June 30, 1987, on the impact of the program, including the types of equipment funded and the amount of private sector matching funds generated. All recipients of grants under this act shall provide information requested by the department for the purposes of this report.

Section 5. Appropriation.

The sum of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from the Pennsylvania Economic Revitalization Fund to the Ben Franklin Partnership Fund for grants to engineering degree-granting schools for acquiring and upgrading engineering equipment. This appropriation shall be a continuing appropriation and shall not lapse until June 30, 1987. Any funds from this appropriation remaining unexpended or unencumbered upon the termination of this act shall automatically lapse into the Pennsylvania Economic Revitalization Fund.

Section 6. Expiration.

This act shall expire June 30, 1987.

Section 7. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 2nd day of July, A. D. 1984.

DICK THORNBURGH