

No. 1989-41

## AN ACT

HB 691

Amending the act of August 31, 1971 (P.L.423, No.101), entitled "An act providing for Commonwealth support for institutions of higher education to furnish learning and special counseling services for undergraduate students whose cultural, economic and educational disadvantages impair their initial ability to pursue successfully higher education opportunities, and making an appropriation," further providing for eligibility of part-time students.

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

Section 1. Sections 2 and 3 of the act of August 31, 1971 (P.L.423, No.101), known as the Higher Education Equal Opportunity Act, are amended to read:

Section 2. Legislative Findings.—The General Assembly finds and declares that because of financial, home and community environmental conditions, *part-time and full-time* students with substantial potential for success in college and for future leadership in the community are unable to pursue a higher education and attain their full educational capability. In order to combat effectively the forces which prevent these students from pursuing a higher education, a variety of programs and methods must be tried.

This act is designed to provide funds to institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth for the purpose of offering programs to enhance the chances of disadvantaged *part-time and full-time* students to achieve their educational goals.

Section 3. Definitions.—The following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Institutions of higher education" shall mean those post secondary institutions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorized to award degrees.

(2) ["Student"] "*Full-time student*" shall mean any bona fide resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who has been admitted as a full-time student to an institution of higher education and who is economically and educationally disadvantaged in accordance with criteria to be established by the State Board of Education.

(3) "*Part-time student*" shall mean any bona fide resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who has been admitted into a degree program as a less than full-time student, but who is enrolled in at least the equivalent of six semester credits or 225 clock hours of instruction per semester, in an institution of higher education and who is economically and educationally disadvantaged in accordance with the criteria to be established by the State Board of Education.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 7th day of July, A. D. 1989.

ROBERT P. CASEY