

# City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
Room 402, City Hall  
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 071010)

## RESOLUTION

Calling Upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to Approve HB 1722 Establishing the REACH Program--Reliable Educational Assistance for College Hopefuls--Allowing Pennsylvania High School Students that Perform Well in High School to Attend State Universities Tuition-Free.

WHEREAS, On July 27, 2007, State Representative Payton, D-Phila., joined by House Speaker Dennis O'Brien, announced the establishment of the REACH Program--Reliable Educational Assistance for College Hopefuls; and

WHEREAS, The REACH Program will provide Pennsylvania students who have demonstrated academic excellence the opportunity to attend college; and

WHEREAS, The Program also provides for a statewide merit-based scholarship program for all students in Pennsylvania who maintain at least a 3.0 grade-point average and a 90 percent attendance record; and

WHEREAS, The program would ensure those students would receive a scholarship covering all tuition and fees to any university in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, Representative Tony Payton has explained the need for the Program by saying, "I believe that all responsible students who exhibit a passion for learning in high school should be given the opportunity to continue their intellectual development. The REACH program would do that by providing a full scholarship, covering tuition and fees, to all qualified high school students, regardless of economic background, gender, race and/or religious affiliation. Every public, private and parochial school student who meets the base criteria would be eligible for a scholarship."; and

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WHEREAS, The REACH Program would be an investment in the state's future and reverse the trend of students seeking higher education outside of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania General Assembly should support enactment of HB 1722 because, in Representative Payton's words, it will give, "Pennsylvania's best and brightest an incentive to stay in-state both during and after college [and]...create a stronger tax base of young professionals, encourage economic growth and combat the population crisis that threatens Pennsylvania's economic future."; now therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby calls upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to Approve HB 1722 Establishing the REACH Program--Reliable Educational Assistance for College Hopefuls--Allowing Pennsylvania High School Students that Perform Well in High School to Attend State Universities Tuition-Free.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the fifteenth of November, 2007.

Anna C. Verna  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Blackwell and Reynolds Brown

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Blackwell, Reynolds Brown, Clarke, Miller, Greenlee, Rizzo, Ramos, Goode, Krajewski, Kenney, Council President Verna and Councilmember Kelly