

Education Recap



March 14 – 20, 2025

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SESSION STATUS

At 2:20 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Monday, March 24, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 12:33 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, the Senate recessed until Monday, March 24, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

March 24-26
April 7-9, 22-24
May 5-7, 12-14
June 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23-27, 30
Sept. 22-24 (NV), 29-30
Oct. 1, 6-8, 27-29
Nov. 17-19
Dec. 8-10 (NV), 15-17

Senate

March 24-26, 31
April 1-2
May 5-7, 12-13
June 2-4, 9-11, 23-30

The Education Recap is a comprehensive weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education-related legislation in Pennsylvania state government, as compiled and edited by PLS. Additional information, including video, transcript and testimony, is available to [PLSGovTrac](https://www.pslgovtrac.com) users. For more information, contact sales@mypls.com.

Press Conferences

PLS coverage of Capitol events including press conferences, bill signings and media availabilities

HOUSE DEMOCRATS CALL FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | March 18, 2025

Advocates and House Democrats advocated for a juvenile justice reform legislative package today in the Main Capitol Rotunda.

Rep. Emily Kinkead (D-Allegheny) welcomed everyone to the press conference and said she wanted to begin with the “real architect” of the package, Rep. Dan Miller (D-Allegheny).

Rep. Miller said he did not know about the “real architect” label but appreciated the recognition and provided a background on the bipartisan Juvenile Justice Task Force and the report that was issued providing 75 recommendations for reform. He praised the task for their work and noted in the previous session where the Senate “addressed partially two of the roughly 75 types of recommendations.” He said, “Two is better than zero, but we’re going to try and do better with this term.” He discussed legislation he is authoring with Rep. Justin Fleming (D-Dauphin) to address *Miranda* warnings with juveniles, which he said the warnings are “generally not compatible with minors.” He referred to studies showing juveniles not understanding the *Miranda* warnings. He also discussed efforts to assist in educating children in an environment where they may be placed in a juvenile detention facility.

Stefanie Arbutina, Vulnerable Youth Policy Director, Children First, said she and her organization were “dedicated to creating a more just juvenile legal system, one that recognizes children are not the same as adults and should not be treated as such.” She reiterated points made by Rep. Miller regarding the Juvenile Justice Task Force and said, “So while there’s been some progress, we have a long way to go.” She called for lawmakers to “keep children out of the juvenile justice system and protect those who become entangled in it.” She also called for the limitation of the use of solitary confinement for juveniles.

Aqila David, Stoneleigh Youth Advocacy Fellow, Juvenile Law Center, spoke of her experience being incarcerated as a juvenile and called for a change. She said there were “more solutions than locking kids away and we need to invest in alternative support and opportunities.” She criticized the imposition of fines on juveniles who are being ordered to pay “thousands of dollars” and she asked, “How can you expect a 15-year-old to pay thousands if they never had a job, or if their family is struggling to make ends meet?”

Rep. Rick Krajewski (D-Philadelphia) thanked those who have been impacted for telling their stories and for advocating to “treat kids as kids.” He told a brief story of his visit to a juvenile justice center in Philadelphia, and he expressed his “disgust.” He described the cells where juveniles were placed and the outfits juveniles wore, stating that he observed the juveniles were “placed in shackles.” He emphasized the facilities as being “overcrowded” and the staff at the facilities as “overwhelmed with the children.” He stated, “I want to be clear – these are children.” He discussed his legislative efforts in part of the package which aims to address diversion and reforming detention centers. He referenced a story in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* where juveniles were “bribed to fight over cheesesteaks.” He also noted a lack of education and called it a “completely

unacceptable situation.” He concluded, “This is about humanity, this is about expression of compassion in the way we handle youth and harm and safety.”

Rep. Chris Rabb (D-Philadelphia) asserted the advocates in attendance were “not statistics, you’re not expendable, you’re not disposable, and you’re not a super predator.” He discussed the origins of the “deeply racist narrative” surrounding the phrase “super predator.” He said, “I never thought that 30 years later, after working in the U.S. Senate and hearing these politicians say awful things, that I’ve been in a position of power and authority to make some small difference in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” He praised the development of the legislative package and remarked the bills “shouldn’t be controversial or partisan, yet it is.” He criticized the criminal justice system and stated, “We have a criminal legal system, and it has not known true justice since its establishment.”

Rep. Anthony Bellmon (D-Philadelphia) provided his background as a teacher and said his students noted him as someone who “doesn’t like to waste time.” He talked about juveniles sitting in juvenile detention centers waiting for a bed to arrive and it “did not count towards their sentence.” He criticized the system for “wasting time” and further said, “That to me is a problem, as an educator, as a legislator, and that means we’re not doing our job.” He praised the bills in the package and regarded them as bills that “make sense,” and were not “too radical or too outlandish.”

Rep. Melissa Shusterman (D-Chester) discussed her childhood growing up next to a juvenile detention center with her parents “dream home.” She said she became friends with those in the center and asked her parents why she could not invite them over. She said her mother would explain to her but noted “a joy in these children’s eyes.” She emphasized opportunities for children to enter education programs and to graduate and for them to be part of a community. She provided brief overviews of her bills which aim to address oversight of juvenile detention facilities, data monitoring on youths who are denied admission or removed from home placement, and funding for indigent counsel. She said, “We can do better, Pennsylvania.”

Rep. Kinkead thanked her colleagues and advocates for joining the press conference and criticized solitary confinement for juveniles as “on par with torture.” She said, “We should not be doing that unless there are absolutely no other options.” She noted the first interactions juveniles have with the justice system are summary offenses and said, “There are so many options to help kids recognize they made a mistake without unraveling their lives by outing them into detention.” She emphasized the purpose of the press conference and stated, “These are kids, this is the future of Pennsylvania that we’re talking about.” She warned about not treating kids as kids and said, “We are really harming our own future and that is a huge problem.”

Also in attendance were Reps. Roni Green (D-Philadelphia) and Carol Kazeem (D-Delaware).



Committee News

Comprehensive coverage of the House & Senate public hearings and voting meetings

House Appropriations Committee

03/17/2025, 12:45 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider four bills.

[HB 33](#) - (PN 441) Amends the Medical Marijuana Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in practitioners, further providing for practitioner registration; in medical marijuana controls, further providing for electronic tracking and for laboratory; and, in Medical Marijuana Advisory Board, further providing for advisory board. Permits the Department of Health (DOH) to place one or more conditions on a practitioner for inclusion on the registry, specifying those conditions. Provides provisions for independent laboratories applying for various types of medical marijuana testing. Requires a product to be de-identified if the department utilizes an approved lab to conduct audit testing. Changes the timeline for notification of corrective actions from 30 to 15 business days before implementation. Requires the department to set pre-established criteria when determining if a quality assurance test is satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Specifies types of violations under this legislation. Provides the sanctions the department may impose in addition to penalties. Provides for testing data and trend analysis. Directs DOH to determine the scope of the accreditation an approved laboratory must receive and maintain. Permits the department to establish and maintain a state testing laboratory, specifying what the laboratory shall be responsible for and requiring approved laboratories to provide materials to the state testing laboratory reference library. Provides for the powers and duties of DOH. Requires the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board to have one member appointed by the governor, who shall have experience and expertise in laboratory science and shall not be affiliated

with, contracted with, an owner of, operator of or financed by an approved laboratory or medical marijuana organization, as well as requires all members to have voting rights. Makes editorial changes to include subsection (10). The addition of section 401 (d) of the act is effective in 60 days. Section 5 is effective immediately. The remainder of this act is effective in 90 days. (Prior PN: 12, 372). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 111](#) - (PN 89) Lloyd's law prohibits discrimination in certain life insurance policies based on certain drugs. Specifies definitions. Provides that an insurer may not take adverse action on a life insurance policy against an applicant solely based on an individual applicant's prior or current claim or obtainment due to an opioid overdose reversal agent prescription. Asserts that any violation of this act shall constitute unfair discrimination under section 53 of the Insurance Company Law of 1921 and the Unfair Insurance Practices Act. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 240](#) - (PN 192) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, further providing for qualifications for school bus driver endorsement to assert that applicants must complete a physical examination which will include a hearing test for those requiring hearing aids to ensure proper functioning to meet the department's minimum hearing standards. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 439](#) - (PN 508) Amends the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, further providing for definitions to insert definitions for "race," "protective hairstyle" and "religious creed." Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 397). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.



House Education Committee

03/17/2025, 9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

By Julia Walters, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider two bills and four resolutions.

Chairman Peter Schweyer (D-Lehigh) welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

[HB 354](#) - (PN 308) The "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" Act provides for "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" guidelines for school entities; and imposes duties on the Department of Education (PDE). Provides definitions. Establishes guidelines for the development and availability generally regarding "What is Your Pennsylvania Story." Requires PDE to develop guidelines in a manner that provides professional educators who teach social studies with the information and strategies to be incorporated into instruction for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 to encourage students to share their stories. Outlines the guidelines for requirements. Allows discretionary content to be included in the guidelines and outlines the criteria. Establishes notice requirements and adds that the act expires at the conclusion of the 2026-2027 school year. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Barbara Gleim (R-Cumberland) praised Rep. Jared Solomon (D-Philadelphia), HB 354's prime sponsor, and mentioned she worked with him on this bill last session. Rep. Gleim added that Pennsylvania has played an integral role in shaping the country. She stated, "It's important that we provide some type of guidelines to teachers and students to learn and reflect on our nation, especially during this 250th anniversary."

[HB 819](#) - (PN 926) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for continuing professional development; providing for access to rigorous courses of study for all students; adding Article XVII-E to establish the Access to Rigorous Courses of Study for All Students Grant Program in the Department of Education (PDE); and imposing duties on PDE. Includes providing opportunities for educators to serve as rigorous course of study coaches to support teachers in delivering high-quality rigorous courses of study as credit for certification. Defines "rigorous course of study" to have the same meaning as in section 1702-E. Provides additional definitions. Requires each school entity receiving a grant under section 1704-E(b) to provide secondary students with expanded opportunities to enroll in rigorous courses of study as well as exam fee assistance, as appropriate, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Asserts the rigorous courses of study supplement, not supplant courses offered by the school entity or the secondary school students. Provides departmental duties. Establishes the purpose of the program. Provides educator training grants to school entities. Requires rigorous course of study exam fee assistance from the department. Mandates the department to establish guidelines and procedures necessary for the implementation of this article. Requires reporting and program funding. Provides rights of school employees. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as amended**, with Representatives Gleim, Marc Anderson (R-York), Joseph D'Orsie (R-York), Milou Mackenzie (R-Northampton) and Stephenie Scialabba (R-Butler) voting in the negative.

[A00117](#), by Schweyer, requires entities with fewer than eight courses to be eligible for the increased course offerings accordingly and requires PDE to reimburse the exam fee based on a poverty threshold of 185%. The amendment was **adopted**, with Representatives Anderson, D’Orsie, Gleim, Mackenzie, Scialabba, Jill Cooper (R-Westmoreland) and Brian Rasel (R-Westmoreland) voting in the negative.

Rep. Steven Malagari (D-Montgomery), the bill’s prime sponsor, stated his bill will give students the ability to take advanced coursework in high school for college credit. He mentioned students from North Penn High School in Lansdale, who originally came to him for guidance on this issue, helped him draft the bill and learned about the legislative process. Rep. Malagari emphasized that his colleagues will only be voting to set up the program and not on appropriate amounts at this time. He said this bill allows for professional development for teachers to be trained in teaching the advanced coursework. Rep. Malagari added that students must be 185% below the poverty level in order to qualify for the program.

Minority Chairman Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) gave his support for the bill, mentioning he would like to see expansion in the dual enrollment program. He highlighted this is an opportunity for college students to save money while pursuing higher education.

Rep. Anderson raised concerns about more money going to the College Board, which he mentioned is a private entity rather than an education entity. He stated students already have many pathways for dual enrollment and avenues “to help them with the cost of the test.”

Rep. Gleim added that school districts should set up these programs on their own to keep it “locally controlled” rather than state-controlled. She added she could be in support of the bill if there were “tweaks” made.

Chairman Schweyer thanked Rep. Malagari for working on the bill. He stated that this bill is “vendor-neutral” rather than supporting one specific vendor. “This is an opportunity for students to have options in front of them, and it’s not for any one particular testing corporation,” he added.

Rep. Anderson argued the College Board “dominates” the market for advanced placement testing.

[HB 575](#) - (PN 579) Amends Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 53 (Municipalities Generally), in professional and occupational licenses, further providing for definitions and providing for policy for the award of academic credit for military training; and making editorial changes. Amends Chapter 75 name to read “Licenses and Credits for Military Service and Training.” Adds subchapters A, B and C for Title 51. Defines “institution of higher education.” Provides a subchapter for academic credit. Requires the Department of Education (PDE) to adopt a policy for the award of academic credit to a student enrolled in an institution of higher education who has successfully completed a military training course or program, or who has obtained experiential learning, as part of the student’s military service that is applicable to the student’s certificate or degree requirements. Provides requirements for recommendation for academic credit, military transcript or written documentation by any of the armed forces of the United States. Provides duties of PDE. Requires copies of the PDE policy to be made and placed in an institution’s public catalog. Makes editorial changes to reflect the Chapter 75 title name. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **re-referred** to the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

[HR 64](#) - (PN 542) Resolution designating the month of April 2025 as "Community College Month" in Pennsylvania in recognition of the important role that community colleges play in the education system and economy of this Commonwealth. The resolution was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A00115](#), by Watro, updates details of the resolution. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Mary Isaacson (D-Philadelphia), the resolution’s prime sponsor, thanked Rep. Dane Watro (R-Schuylkill) for his updates on the legislation. She asked for affirmative votes to recognize the work community colleges do for education.

[HR 91](#) - (PN 741) Resolution designating the month of March 2025 as "Music in Our Schools Month" in Pennsylvania. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HR 107](#) - (PN 891) Resolution designating March 19, 2025, as "The Pennsylvania State University IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THON) Day" in Pennsylvania and congratulating THON for raising more than \$17 million for the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital to help fight pediatric cancer. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Cutler, on behalf of the resolution’s primary sponsor Rep. Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre), emphasized the student body at the Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) broke their fundraising record with \$17.7 million raised for the Four Diamonds Fund. He expressed hope to recognize them for that achievement.

Chairman Schweyer praised the resolution and mentioned being a fan and alumnus of Penn State.

[HR 114](#) - (PN 925) Resolution recognizing the week of March 10 through 14, 2025, as "Civic Learning Week" in Pennsylvania. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Darisha Parker (D-Philadelphia), the resolution's prime sponsor, asked everyone to vote in the affirmative on this resolution, adding she hopes her colleagues remember School House Rock, a popular children's program that taught civics lessons.

Chairman Schweyer thanked the members for being present for the early meeting on a Monday morning before he adjourned the meeting.



House State Government Committee

03/17/2025, 10:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

Rep. Joe Webster (D-Montgomery), filling in for Chairman Carol Hill-Evans (D-York), explained Chairman Hill-Evans was ill and he wished her well.

Minority Chairman Brad Roae (R-Crawford) also wished Chairman Hill-Evans well.

[HB 408](#) - (PN 380) Amends Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government), in membership, contributions and benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025; and, in benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025. Entitles eligible benefit recipients to receive an additional monthly supplemental annuity after July 1, 2025. Provides the amount of additional supplemental annuity. Directs annuity be paid automatically unless notice is given to the contrary. Provides annuity conditions. Prohibits supplemental annuity from being payable to the beneficiary or survivor annuitant of a member who dies before July 1, 2025, or the effective date, whichever is later. Provides funding for additional liability for increase in benefits. Provides for an eligible benefit recipient. Effective immediately. The bill was **reported as amended**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

[A00077](#) by Hill-Evans, provides a technical amendment that does not change the meaning of the bill or the impact of the bill but aligns the funding provisions for the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) with the established actuarial costs method within Title 71 to ensure fiscal consistency. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Chairman Roae said the bill is "well intended, but not fiscally responsible." He criticized the pension system as an "absolute train wreck of a mess," and criticized the proposed budget by Governor Josh Shapiro where he said the budget "has \$6 billion of more spending than revenue."

Rep. Russ Diamond (R-Lebanon) voiced "disappointment" for the prime sponsor of the bill, Rep. Daniel Deasy (D-Allegheny) not being in attendance. He explained pensions are viewed "legally as contracts, and the terms of that pension contract are locked in on day one of employment." He briefly discussed previous pension legislation and warned about "how these are contracts and how this is eventually going to cost tax increases for the vast majority of Pennsylvanians who do not participate in a public pension system."

Rep. Marla Brown (R-Lawrence) voiced appreciation for the intentions of the bill but also referenced her recent participation in the House Appropriations Committee budget hearings. She pointed out the proposed budget of being \$45 billion and the pension unfunded liability is "around \$60 billion," adding "it is "unimaginable."

Rep. Scott Barger (R-Blair) criticized the bill and asked, "Why wouldn't we start with the neediest?" He explained his no-vote by stating, "We are sending a message to the poorest and weakest among us that there is, in fact, a power class, a privileged class, that is absolutely willing to siphon funds from other necessary programs and put those funds into their pockets."

Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta (D-Philadelphia) voiced his frustration with the "hypocrisy" from some of his colleagues who accepted cost of living adjustments (COLAs) and added it was not "fiscally responsible to have seniors who can barely afford to eat, and so what we end up doing is funding other programs that support these same seniors because they can't support themselves." He regarded

some talking points as “ridiculous nonsense,” and concluded, stating, “I won't be lectured by folks receiving a COLA that others shouldn't.”

Rep. Webster reminded the committee to follow protocol and not demean other members.

Rep. Tim Bonner (R-Mercer) reiterated concerns regarding pension funds and called it “serious financial trouble.” He voiced opposition to the bill and called for “fiscal sanity.”

Rep. Melissa Shusterman (D-Chester) emphasized the importance of schoolteachers and the impact they have on children's lives. She said the teachers “deserve just the most meager increase so they can afford certain things that cost more now.”

Rep. Stephanie Scialabba (R-Butler) said, “I think that we need to stop acting like teaching is a terrible job. It's a wonderful job and I don't think anybody by voting no on this today is saying that teachers don't matter. We all know they matter.” She discussed teacher salaries and stated, “We were lectured about hypocrisy, but we should also be lectured about accuracy because pensions and salaries are two different things.”

Rep. Ben Waxman (D-Philadelphia) voiced support for the bill and emphasized not listening “to the smoke and mirrors.” He noted Social Security being mentioned by other colleagues and said, “Social Security is under threat.” He criticized the federal government and called for the protection of public school pensioners. He also remarked, “What you heard today in this meeting, it is just more of the same attacks on the public sector, attacks on public workers, attacks on government as a thing that can help people and it is the same rhetoric that we are seeing from Washington, D.C.”

Rep. Diamond provided legislative background on pensions and explained why he was disappointed Rep. Deasy did not come to the meeting and added his “mind was not made up before the meeting.” He noted remarks made of COLAs were “kind of true and kind of false.” He referenced a Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision that ruled “anyone who gets that COLA cannot refuse it.” He also told a brief story when he was eating dinner and a woman named Geraldine, who used to babysit Rep. Diamond when he was an infant, handed him a note asking him to vote for the bill. Rep. Diamond had told her pensions are a contract and he said, “We should not impair that contract whatsoever, not on the pensioner or the person who's paying the bills— that taxpayer.”

Rep. Kenyatta rebutted Rep. Diamond and said, “Geraldine, if you are watching, you did not babysit me, but I will be voting for your COLA, and girl, you deserve it.”

Chairman Roae mentioned [HB 691](#), where COLAs for legislators would be eliminated, and also [HB 244](#) from last session which aimed to do the same. He criticized the bill and discussed seniors who do not have pensions and who didn't qualify for property tax rent rebates (PTRR) and rely on Social Security. He echoed the sentiments of Rep. Diamond, noting pensions were “legally binding contracts.” He said, “This bill is so expensive, the way it's written, the cost, there's no way to pay for it except to divide it out over a 10-year period.”

Rep. Webster explained the reason for deficits in pension contributions and said it is because “the employer didn't pay its share, so when you hear that calculation of a multiplier and all of those other things, the problem in the pension system is that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has failed its side of the payment in which would then make a robust retirement system.” He praised public sector workers and noted they “have sat there without a COLA for over 20 years.”

[HB 411](#) - (PN 383) Amends Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government), in membership, contributions and benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025; and, in benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025. Provides that an eligible benefit recipient shall be entitled to receive an additional monthly supplemental annuity from the system commencing with the first monthly annuity payment after July 1, 2025, and lists the additional supplemental annuity payable as a percentage of the amount of the monthly annuity payment. Adds that the payments will be made automatically. Provides for the conditions and benefits to beneficiaries or survivors. Provides that the additional liability for the increase in benefits shall be funded in equal annual installments over a period of 10 years beginning July 1, 2026. Outlines eligibility requirements and adds that a supplemental annuity provided shall not be payable to an annuitant receiving a withdrawal annuity prior to the first day of July coincident with or following the annuitant's attainment of superannuation age. Provides for supplemental annuity benefits commencing 2025 and the amount of additional supplemental annuity. Outlines guidelines and requirements for the payments, conditions, benefits to beneficiaries, funding and eligible benefit recipients. Effective immediately. The bill was **reported as amended**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

[A00078](#) by Hill-Evans, provides consistency and class benefit recipient clarifications. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Webster noted the bill has similar language to the previous bill the committee debated.

Rep. Jeremy Shaffer (R-Allegheny) voiced appreciation for the intention of the bills and discussed his background working with municipal pension plans. He voiced his criticism of the bill and said, "To increase the benefits without increasing the funding simply worsens the deficit, especially when you do it after the fact."

Rep. Steve Malagari (D-Montgomery), the bill's prime sponsor, discussed SERS and Pennsylvania Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) members who have not had a COLA in over 20 years and said, "The pool of individuals gets smaller and people pass away." He explained that cost of living is increasing and urged for the committee's support.

Chairman Roae noted the bill was like the previous bill, but said this bill is "more expensive." He reiterated there are seniors living in poverty who only receive Social Security and urged for a "more vigorous no vote."

Rep. Webster acknowledged the "healthy debate" on the bills and stated, "I'll conclude the unfortunate part of how long this has taken the employer, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, means that while it was not intended, the retirement system necessarily just for senior citizens, but they're all senior citizens now because we have increased that retirement system." He saw the bills as an opportunity to help public workers and teachers.

[HR 86](#) - (PN 716) Resolution designating March 17, 2025, as "Bayard Rustin Day" in Pennsylvania. The bill was **reported as committed**, with Reps. Barger and Wendy Fink (R-York) voting in the negative.

Rep. Andre Carroll (D-Philadelphia), the resolution's prime sponsor, provided a brief biography of Bayard Rustin and asked for the committee's support.

[HR 69](#) - (PN 559) Resolution recognizing the month of March 2025 as "Women's History Month" in Pennsylvania. The bill was **reported as committed**, with Reps. Barger and Fink voting in the negative.

[HR 25](#) - (PN 280) Concurrent Resolution establishing the Pennsylvania State Song Commission to study the history of the state song of the commonwealth, solicit submissions for a new state song and recommend changes to the state song. The bill was unanimously **re-referred** to the House Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee.

Chairman Roae humorously said, "It's my understanding that Representative Diamond was going to sing his proposal for the new state song."



House Commerce Committee

03/18/2025, 10:00 a.m., Room 523, Irvis Office Building

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider three bills and a resolution.

[HB 78](#) - (PN 65) The Consumer Data Privacy Act provides for consumer data privacy, for duties of controllers and for duties of processors; and imposes penalties. Provides definitions. Establishes consumer data privacy and outlines the rights of consumers. Provides that a consumer may exercise the rights under subsection (a) by a secure and reliable means established by a controller and described to the consumer in the controller's privacy notice. Provides for compliance requirements. Allows for appeals and outlines appeal procedures. Allows a consumer to designate another person to service as the consumer's authorized agent and act on the consumer's personal data. Establishes the duties of controllers including limiting the collection of personal data, refraining from processing personal data for purposes that are neither reasonably necessary to nor compatible with the disclosed purposes for which the personal data is processed, processing personal data in a reasonable and appropriate manner, refraining from processing sensitive data without consent, refraining from processing personal data in violation of federal or state law, providing an effective mechanism for a consumer to revoke consent, refraining from processing personal data for the purpose of targeted advertising or selling data and refraining from discriminating against a consumer for exercising any of their rights. Establishes privacy notice requirements. Provides for disclosures and means to exercise rights. Provides for the duties of processors including assistance, contracts, construction and acting as controller or processor. Establishes a data protection assessment and requires a benefits and risk analysis. Provides for the availability of assessments and for comparing processing operations. Provides for compliance and applicability. Provides for de-identified data and pseudonymous data and provides for the duties of a controller in the possession of de-identified data. Provides for exemptions on restrictions for controllers or processors and establishes legal compliance. Provides for data collection and evidentiary privilege. Provides for third-party access and individual liberties. Outlines

personal data processing requirements. Provides for exemptions and legal entities. Establishes penalties, enforcement and private rights of actions, granting the Attorney General exclusive authority to enforce the act. Provides for non-applicability, exemptions and consent. Effective in six months. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A00126](#) by Nelson, updates states throughout the bill and extends the effective date from six months to one year. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Kristin Marcell (R-Bucks) acknowledged ongoing discussions with stakeholders' issues with the bill and future work to address the concerns but said she would be supporting the bill.

Minority Chairman John Lawrence (R-Chester) said he would be supportive of the bill to vote out of committee, but noted "tension" with the bill and said his "suspicion" was for floor amendments to be added. He stated, "Certainly we don't want to see more onerous regulations on business, but we also want to respect the fact that people are entitled to be secure and safe with their own data privacy."

[HB 685](#) - (PN 701) Amends the Public School Code, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, providing for admission fees for school-sponsored activities. Stipulates that when a fee is charged for admission to a school-sponsored activity, U.S. currency shall be accepted as a form of payment for admission on the date of the activity. Provides that nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a school-sponsored activity from accepting alternative payment methods in addition to U.S. currency for admission to the school-sponsored activity. Provides numerous definitions. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A00092](#) by Lawrence, specifies that cash is accepted as a form of payment at a school event held by a school entity, non-public school or association and defines non-public school and association. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Dan Moul (R-Adams), the bill's prime sponsor, provided an overview of the issue of paying at school events and explained the difficulties for senior citizens not being able to use a smartphone app to pay for their tickets to events. He noted he discussed this with the executive director of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Bob Lombardi, in which he told Rep. Moul that Rep. Moul was "the first one to bring this to his attention." Rep. Moul added Lombardi also said he "doesn't believe there's any issue with it." Rep. Moul voiced criticism of his response and said, "Every single human being I've talked to about this situation has agreed with me, this needs to change. So, he was either very disconnected from his community, or he was being very disingenuous with his answer to me."

Rep. Darisha Parker (D-Philadelphia) commended Rep. Moul for his efforts with the bill and discussed an example she had with a constituent who had an issue with an app to pay for tickets, She added, "Of course, the PIAA is gonna say something to you because when you're talking about the fees, that means somebody is going to be missing out on these fees." Rep. Moul emphasized, "These are our children, our grandchildren, and we have the right to get into an event that they are playing in or taking part in."

Rep. Marcell admitted she did not think of the "PIAA perspective," but also noted the committee is still hearing from stakeholders. Rep. Moul replied by mentioning a letter he received from PIAA which included the statement that "cashless entry is utilized at every professional, major college venue in the state of Pennsylvania. There are no cash entries allowed for any Eagles, Steelers, Philly, PSU, Pitt or Temple athletic events." He criticized the reply and said, "We are not going to Beaver Stadium, we're going to see our children and grandchildren at our local high school." He added he did not understand the "disconnect" from PIAA and asserted that PIAA is "disconnected from the local community."

Rep. Andre Carroll (D-Philadelphia) echoed sentiments regarding technological challenges for senior citizens attending events. Rep. Moul admitted he bought "many tickets already in the past two years for people standing outside the gate that couldn't get in."

Chairman Lawrence said he experienced the issue in his own life and he also noted minors going to high school sporting events, due to a sibling or friend playing in the game, unattended rather than going to a Steelers game unattended.

Chairman Scott Conklin (D-Centre) said he was "glad" the PIAA "considers the PowerHouse field in Phillipsburg equivalent to the Eagles." He said, "It makes me feel good that they're that important, but it is ridiculous as well."

[HB 881](#) - (PN 913) Amends the Money Transmission Business Licensing Law, further providing for title of act and for definitions; providing for short title; and further providing for license required, for exemptions, for qualifications for a license, for fee, financial statement and security, for liability of licensees, for licensee requirements and for agents. Adds virtual currency to the language of the act and adds a definition for "virtual currency." Prohibits a person from engaging in the business of transmitting virtual currency by means of transmittal instrument for a fee or other consideration with or on behalf of an individual without first having obtained a license from the department. Replaces private banks with trust companies and strikes language regarding the Federal Deposit

Insurance Corporation and National Credit Union share insurance fund under section 3 exemptions. Requires that audited financials prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles determine the tangible network for qualifications for a license and for fees, financial statements and security bond applications. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

A00131 by D'Orsie, adds a definition to dish, adds the definition of digital asset and decentralized to the bill, and then goes on to exempt digital assets from the definition of virtual currency. The amendment **failed**, along a party-line vote, with Democrats voting in the negative.

Rep. Joe D'Orsie (R-York) said he did not disagree with regulation in cryptocurrency, but he explained his amendment draws "a distinguishing line between virtual currency and digital assets." He also said the amendment adds an "important clarification."

Chairman Conklin, the bill's prime sponsor, said the amendment was an "odd" one because he said he could "argue either side" of Rep. D'Orsie's amendment. He urged a no vote because he said, "We're looking for unity in this bill to go along with the Senate bill."

Rep. Donna Scheuren (R-Montgomery) asked if the bill would require individuals to seek permission to use their own property, thereby "infringing on their fundamental right to control and transfer their personal assets without third party interference." Indira Ridgeway, Democratic executive director, said she would get back to her.

Rep. Marcell asked when Rep. Scheuren would hear back. Ridgeway said, "Today." Rep. Marcell asked, "So after this vote?" Ridgeway replied, "Correct."

Chairman Lawrence voiced opposition to the bill, citing various concerns including definitions within the bill.

Chairman Conklin noted the "new world in the currency market." He stated, "The more you dwell into these subjects, you realize the less you know and the more complicated they become. I believe not only educating the members, but the public is very important as well."

Ridgeway replied to Reps. Marcell and Scheuren and said, "Per the department, self-hosted wallets would not be required to be licensed under the bill. Only transmission of virtual currency by a third party for a fee would require licensure." Chairman Lawrence asked if that was in the bill. Chairman Conklin said he believed "that is the intent as written." Rep. Scheuren said, "Yeah, but it's not in the bill."

HR 79 - (PN 681) Resolution designating February 9 through 15, 2025, as "Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Week" in Pennsylvania. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.



Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
03/19/2025, 9:00 a.m., Room 8E-B, East Wing
Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a meeting for the election of two committee officers and to consider releasing two reports to the public.

Chairman Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York) nominated Sen. Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia) to serve as vice chair of the committee and Rep. Tim Twardzik (R-Schuylkill) to serve as secretary of the committee.

Sen. Tartaglione was unanimously elected as vice chair of the committee.

Rep. Twardzik was unanimously elected as secretary of the committee.

SR 178 - (PN 1227) Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct a study evaluating the outcomes of Act 44 of 2018 and to issue a report of its findings and recommendations. Updates language throughout. (Prior Printer Number(s): 1139). The report was unanimously **released** to the public.

Stephen Fickes, deputy executive director and project manager, Legislative and Budget Finance Committee (LBFC), reviewed the school safety initiatives from Act 44 of 2018, noting the expansion of school safety measures and the involvement of multiple state

agencies. He highlighted the allocation of over \$600 million since 2018 for grants, emphasizing mental health support, and pointed out the backlog in school safety assessments by the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). Fickes recommended additional resources for this issue, the importance of school security personnel, the impact of the Safe2Say Something program, and the need for stronger internal controls and periodic audits. He concluded with recommendations for certification and training for school safety coordinators, developing an annual school safety report, and improving the school safety assessment process.

Sen. Cris Dush (R-Jefferson) asked about overcoming confidentiality issues in the Safe2Say program for audits. Fickes explained that LBFC tries to work with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to get information redacted and noted the committee was “not looking for names or any sort of personal, identifiable information.” Sen. Dush questioned if the increase in incidents reported was due to actual increases or delays in staffing school safety coordinators. Fickes responded that the increase in incidents might be due to students returning to school post-COVID, and the importance of developing metrics to monitor these trends was emphasized. Sen. Dush expressed interest in comparing incident reports from different years to understand if the increase was due to unfamiliarity with reporting procedures or an actual rise in incidents.

Rep. Jack Rader (R-Monroe) inquired about the percentage of school districts applying for grants and whether some schools might not apply due to unawareness of the process. Fickes said it was a “pretty high number,” and referred to his colleague. Matthew Thomas, senior analyst, LBFC, indicated that by the end of the program, over 90% of schools, around 770, had requested assistance. Rep. Rader highlighted that some school districts were initially unaware of the grant application process and noted the disparity in funds available to larger versus smaller school districts due to a cap based on population. Fickes said he would refer to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to answer Rep. Rader’s question but noted that PCCD does track the information in question. Thomas answered Rep. Rader’s question about funding, explaining the funding cap for school districts is indeed based on population, allowing larger schools to receive more funds.

Rep. Steve Samuelson (D-Northampton) discussed the importance of Act 44 of 2018 for school safety in Pennsylvania and expressed concern over the elimination of the federal School Safety Clearinghouse External Advisory Board. He asked for details on handling anonymous tips through the Safe2Say program. Fickes recommended a 30-day requirement for documented action on anonymous tips and further training for consistency in resolving them. Rep. Samuelson also inquired about the adequacy of the current \$100 million budget for School Safety grants, referencing previous years’ funding levels. Fickes suggested that the PCCD would be better suited to address the analysis of school safety grants’ adequacy.

Sen. Tartaglione discussed the importance of the physical condition of school buildings and questioned the effectiveness of metal detectors in poorly maintained buildings. She inquired about expanding grant programs to include general school improvements. Fickes responded that the current study focused solely on initiatives created by Act 44, but the suggestion could be considered in future studies.

Chairman Phillips-Hill highlighted the extensive nature of the report, with over 160 pages.

Act 90 of 2013 - An Act amending the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, further providing for definitions, for games of chance permitted, for distributor licenses, for major league sports drawing, for club licensee, for distribution of proceeds, for records and for raffle tickets; providing for background checks; further providing for enforcement; providing for tavern gaming and for a host municipality tavern games tax; establishing the Host Municipality Tavern Games Local Share Account; providing for a report of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee; and making an editorial change. The report was unanimously **released** to the public.

Thomas reported that tavern gaming, authorized by Act 90 of 2013, generated significantly less revenue than expected, with only 85 licenses approved and \$1.17 million in tax revenue in 2024, which was a minimal contribution to the state’s revenue. He concluded that tavern gaming did not materially impact state lottery sales.

Rep. Rader questioned the financial viability of the tavern gaming program, given its administrative costs versus revenue generated. Thomas deferred questions about the program’s impact to the Department of Revenue (DOR) and acknowledged the program’s failure to meet initial expectations. Chairman Phillips-Hill inquired about the discrepancy between the expected and actual number of licensed establishments for tavern gaming and whether the total cost of administering the program was reported. Thomas mentioned plans for a more comprehensive review of the program. Chairman Phillips-Hill emphasized the importance of understanding the costs and revenues of gaming programs for the commonwealth.

Rep. Samuelson thanked for the gaming report and raised concerns about the impact of unregulated, untaxed skill games on the state, suggesting it as a topic for future reports. Max Flessner, legislative liaison, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB), stated no report on skill games has been compiled due to uncertainties about their quantity and legality, with ongoing litigation and a lack of precise data on their number and financial impact. Rep. Samuelson noted the unregulated skill games as a concern and said, “I know it’s an initiative that we hope to tackle in this year’s budget.”

Chairman Phillips-Hill mentioned the postponement of an officers meeting to Monday to accommodate Sen. Tartaglione, the newly elected vice chair, and stated that members would be notified. The meeting was then recessed to the call of the chair.



House Children and Youth Committee

03/19/25, 10:00 a.m., Room 515, Irvis Office Building

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider a bill and several resolutions.

[HB 524](#) - (PN 516) The Video Camera Surveillance in Child-Care Centers Act requires child-care centers to install video camera surveillance systems; and confers powers and duties on the Department of Human Services. Provides definitions. Requires every child-care center to install and maintain video camera surveillance systems that adhere to specifications created by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Allows DHS to conduct inspections of child-care centers for compliance with this act. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **gone over**.

[HR 41](#) - (PN 365) Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of emergency child care and provide recommendations. The bill was **gone over**.

Chairman Jeannie McNeill (D-Lehigh) stated that the theme for the meeting is childcare.

[HB 156](#) - (PN 116) Amends the Human Services Code, in departmental powers and duties as to licensing, providing for carbon monoxide alarm standards in child care centers and family child care homes. Asserts that the Department of Human Services may take enforcement action against violations. Provides that the department shall provide written notice to each child care center or family child care home. Provides guidelines for approved carbon monoxide alarms. Provides definitions for "approved carbon monoxide alarm," "installed," "operational" and "unit." Effective in 90 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A00112](#) by McNeill, adds language related to the location and approved installation of the carbon monoxide alarm and definitions for the following terms, approved carbon monoxide alarm and child care center. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Chairman McNeill, the bill's prime sponsor, commented that she first filed the bill in 2021. She noted that the bill was not acted upon and she later watched a news report where 32 children and an adult were taken from a daycare with carbon monoxide poisoning. She highlighted that if her bill had passed, it's likely that those children and that worker would have been safe from the deadly gas.

Minority Chairman Kate Klunk (R-York) stated that although she is not in favor of more regulation, it is important for daycares to have reasonable protections. She noted that the majority of daycare providers are already compliant because many smoke detectors also detect carbon monoxide.

[HR 62](#) - (PN 533) Resolution recognizing the week of April 5 through 11, 2025, as "Week of the Young Child" in Pennsylvania. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HR 113](#) - (PN 924) Resolution recognizing April 26, 2025, as "Diabetic Eye Screening Day" in Pennsylvania. The bill was reported as committed on a party-line vote with Republicans voting in the negative. The resolution was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

A motion to re-refer the bill to the House Health Committee failed, on a party-line vote, with Democrats voting in the negative.

On her motion, Chairman Klunk said the bill does not mention children or youth. "This is clearly an adult issue," she said.

Rep. Gary Day (R-Lehigh) pointed out he is on the House Health Committee, and they have meetings scheduled. He commented that the bill is more appropriate in House Health. Danielle Bowers, Democratic executive director, said, "This resolution is currently before the members of the Children and Youth Committee just simply to take action on the resolution prior to any Health Committee meeting scheduled, is my understanding."

Rep. Heather Boyd (D-Delaware) stated that if passing the resolution from House Children and Youth will help the legislature take action, then she will support the bill.

Chairman Klunk pointed out there are three weeks of session left and the day of recognition is not until April 26.

Chairman McNeill said she believes her committee works well with others and suggested the House Health Committee can take up the bill after its passage from the House Children and Youth Committee.

Rep. Brenda Pugh (R-Luzerne) explained her concern that considering the resolution will set a precedent of considering legislation that is not related to the committee's jurisdiction.

[HR 117](#) - (PN 955) Resolution recognizing March 14, 2025, as "Black Midwives Day" in Pennsylvania. The resolution was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

A motion to re-refer the bill to the House Health Committee failed on a party-line vote with Democrats voting in the negative.

On her motion, Chairman Klunk said the resolution would be better considered in the House Health Committee because it is focused on women's health.

Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D-Montgomery) said, "The more access we have to midwives and celebrating midwives, the more babies we keep alive."

Rep. La'Tasha Mayes (D-Allegheny), the resolution's prime sponsor, highlighted the leadership of the Black Maternal Health Caucus in advancing maternal health for all mothers. She reported that Black women are three times more likely to die in childbirth. She emphasized the importance of midwives in providing health services to mothers.

Chairman Klunk noted the day recognized in the resolution has already passed. She pointed out the resolution could be seen as divisive because it does not celebrate all midwives.

Rep. Gina Curry (D-Delaware) said, "The part that's divisive is the education around why this resolution is so important today, the part where we're not excluding all midwives, but we're specifically talking about the history of what, where midwifery came from, and the fact that there are only 8% of Black midwives across this commonwealth right now." She attributed the discrepancy to systematic racism.



Bullet.in.Points

[PDE: PROPOSED GRANT APPLICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER PART B OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025](#)

The Department of Education announced it is seeking public comment regarding the proposed grant application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-B) for federal fiscal year 2025. The annual grant application provides, in part, assurance consistent with the federal requirements to ensure that a free appropriate public education is made available to all children with a disability from three years of age to 21 years of age, including children who have been suspended or expelled from school. A copy of the proposed 2025 IDEA-B grant application and the current IDEA-B policies and procedures are available on the department's [website](#).

The department is also seeking public comment on revisions to its State Plan and Model LEA policies and procedures, specifically its age of eligibility for the provision of free appropriate public education (FAPE). To comply with federal and state law, the department seeks to extend FAPE to students with disabilities through their 21st birthday, rather than ending services at the conclusion of the school term in which they turn 21 years of age.

Verbal testimony must be provided virtually on April 30, 2025, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. To schedule an opportunity to present verbal testimony, or for persons with a disability who require an accommodation to participate in the proceedings, contact Aaron loos at (717) 772-3500, aioos@pa.gov no later than April 21, 2025. Individuals will be provided with a link to participate. Additional information is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO192 - Public University DEI Funding Ban

Sponsor

Rep. Milou Mackenzie (R)

Summary

Eliminates Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) funding at Pennsylvania publicly funded colleges and universities.

Intro Date

12/03/2024

Last Action

03/20/2025 H - Introduced HB987

HCO1003 - Protecting Our Students from Suicide

Sponsor

Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D)

Summary

Requires schools to notify parents and guardians if their child has threatened suicide or been involved in bullying.

Intro Date

01/13/2025

Last Action

03/20/2025 H - Introduced HB1002

HCO1532 - Equity in Education

Sponsor

Rep. Valerie S. Gaydos (R)

Summary

Aims to require school districts to begin to compile information listing the number of gifted children in all expenditure categories.

Intro Date

02/11/2025

Last Action

03/19/2025 H - Introduced HB976

HCO1589 - Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Shared Governance**Sponsor**

Rep. Tim Briggs (D)

Summary

Provides for both faculty and staff to each have a voting seat at the table of the PASSHE Board of Governors.

Intro Date

02/18/2025

Last Action

03/17/2025 H - Introduced HB938

HCO1620 - Allowing School Van Use**Sponsor**

Rep. James B. Struzzi (R)

Summary

Exempts the operator of an 11 to 15-passenger van from the requirement to obtain a school bus endorsement, while also exempting the operator from the requirement to obtain a CDL for the purpose of transporting students to and from schools or to school-related activities.

Intro Date

02/19/2025

Last Action

03/20/2025 H - Introduced HB998

HCO1639 - Education Support Professional Living Wage

Sponsor

Rep. Dan L. Miller (D)

Summary

Requires public schools to pay a living wage of at least \$20/hour to educational support professionals.

Intro Date

02/21/2025

Last Action

03/18/2025 H - Introduced HB777

HCO1759 - School Corridor Funding

Sponsor

Rep. Gina H. Curry (D)

Summary

Appropriates \$50 million to protect school corridors throughout the commonwealth.

Intro Date

03/05/2025

Last Action

03/14/2025 H - Introduced HB925

SCO121 - Expanding the Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program

Sponsor

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)

Summary

Expands the current Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program to children nationwide to attend a PASSHE school.

Intro Date

12/02/2024

Last Action

03/17/2025 S - Introduced SB432

SCO406 - Firefighter Training Pilot Program for High School Students

Sponsor

Sen. Michele Brooks (R)

Summary

Aims to create a pilot program for community colleges and universities in the PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) to give interested high school students training in firefighting.

Intro Date

12/17/2024

Last Action

03/18/2025 S - Introduced SB470

SCO841 - Resolution Designating March 8, 2025 as "Pennsylvania Wrestling Day"

Sponsor

Sen. Scott Martin (R)

Summary

Designates March 8, 2025, as "Pennsylvania Wrestling Day."

Intro Date

03/06/2025

Last Action

03/17/2025 H - Introduced SR47

SCO884 - Individual Tax Deduction for Tuition Support from Employers

Sponsor

Sen. Nick Miller (D)

Summary

Creates a personal income tax (PIT) deduction up to \$5,250 for individuals who receive post-secondary education expense support directly from their employers.

Intro Date

03/18/2025

Last Action

03/18/2025 S - Cosponsor memo filed

Basic Ed Bill Actions

HB240 - An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, further providing for qualifications for school bus driver endorsement.

Sponsor

Rep. Kerry A. Benninghoff (R)

Summary

(PN 192) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, further providing for qualifications for school bus driver endorsement to assert that applicants must complete a physical examination which will include a hearing test for those requiring hearing aids to ensure proper functioning to meet the department's minimum hearing standards. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

01/17/2025

Actions

03/17/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

03/17/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

03/17/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

03/17/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

03/17/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Transportation

HB354 - An Act providing for "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" guidelines for school entities; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

Sponsor

Rep. Jared G. Solomon (D)

Summary

(PN 308) The "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" Act provides for "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" guidelines for school entities; and imposes duties on the Department of Education (PDE). Provides definitions. Establishes guidelines for the development and availability generally regarding "What is Your Pennsylvania Story." Requires PDE to develop guidelines in a manner that provides professional educators who teach social studies with the information and strategies to be incorporated into instruction for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 to encourage students to share their stories. Outlines the guidelines for requirements. Allows discretionary content to be included in the guidelines and outlines the criteria. Establishes notice requirements and adds that the act expires at the conclusion of the 2026-2027 school year. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

01/24/2025

Actions

01/27/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

03/05/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/17/2025, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 205, Ryan Office Building

03/17/2025 H - Reported as committed - House Education

03/17/2025 H - First consideration, March 17, 2025

03/17/2025 H - Laid on the table, March 17, 2025

HB408 - An Act amending Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in membership, contributions and benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025; and, in benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025.

Sponsor

Rep. Daniel J. Deasy (D)

Summary

(PN 380) Amends Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government), in membership, contributions and benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025; and, in benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025. Entitles eligible benefit recipients to receive an additional monthly supplemental annuity after July 1, 2025. Provides the amount of additional supplemental annuity. Directs annuity be paid automatically unless notice is given to the contrary. Provides annuity conditions. Prohibits supplemental annuity from being payable to the beneficiary or survivor annuitant of a member who dies before July 1, 2025, or the effective date, whichever is later. Provides funding for additional liability for increase in benefits. Provides for an eligible benefit recipient. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

01/29/2025

Actions

03/12/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/17/2025, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House State Government), Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

03/17/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended - House State Government

03/17/2025 H - First consideration, March 17, 2025

03/17/2025 H - Laid on the table, March 17, 2025

03/17/2025 H - Reported as amended - House State Government

HB411 - An Act amending Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in membership, contributions and benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025; and, in benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025.

Sponsor

Rep. Steven R. Malagari (D)

Summary

(PN 383) Amends Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government), in membership, contributions and benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025; and, in benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025. Provides that an eligible benefit recipient shall be entitled to receive an additional monthly supplemental annuity from the system commencing with the first monthly annuity payment after July 1, 2025, and lists the additional supplemental annuity payable as a percentage of the amount of the monthly annuity payment. Adds that the payments will be made automatically. Provides for the conditions and benefits to beneficiaries or survivors. Provides that the additional liability for the increase in benefits shall be funded in equal annual installments over a period of 10 years beginning July 1, 2026. Outlines eligibility requirements and adds that a supplemental annuity provided shall not be payable to an annuitant receiving a withdrawal annuity prior to the first day of July coincident with or following the annuitant's attainment of superannuation age. Provides for supplemental annuity benefits commencing 2025 and the amount of additional supplemental annuity. Outlines guidelines and requirements for the payments, conditions, benefits to beneficiaries, funding and eligible benefit recipients. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

01/29/2025

Actions

03/17/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended - House State Government

03/17/2025 H - Reported as amended - House State Government

03/17/2025 H - First consideration, March 17, 2025

03/17/2025 H - Laid on the table, March 17, 2025

03/25/2025 H - Placed on HVS

HB685 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, providing for admission fees for school-sponsored activities.

Sponsor

Rep. Dan Moul (R)

Summary

(PN 701) Amends the Public School Code, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, providing for admission fees for school-sponsored activities. Stipulates that when a fee is charged for admission to a school-sponsored activity, U.S. currency shall be accepted as a form of payment for admission on the date of the activity. Provides that nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a school-sponsored activity from accepting alternative payment methods in addition to U.S. currency for admission to the school-sponsored activity. Provides numerous definitions. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

02/20/2025

Actions

03/12/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/18/2025, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Commerce), Room 523, Irvis Office Building

03/18/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended - House Commerce

03/18/2025 H - Laid on the table, March 18, 2025

03/18/2025 H - First consideration, March 18, 2025

03/18/2025 H - Reported as amended - House Commerce

HB819 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in certification of teachers, further providing for continuing professional development; providing for access to rigorous courses of study for all students; establishing the Access to Rigorous Courses of Study for All Students Grant Program; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

Sponsor

Rep. Steven R. Malagari (D)

Summary

(PN 987) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for continuing professional development; providing for access to rigorous courses of study for all students; adding Article XVII-E to establish the Access to Rigorous Courses of Study for All Students Grant Program in the Department of Education (PDE); and imposing duties on PDE. Includes providing opportunities for educators to serve as rigorous course of study coaches to support teachers in delivering high-quality rigorous courses of study as a continuing professional education option. Defines "rigorous course of study" to have the same meaning as in section 1702-E. Provides additional definitions under the added article. Requires each school entity receiving a grant under section 1704-E(b) to provide secondary students with expanded opportunities to enroll in rigorous courses of study as well as exam fee assistance, as appropriate, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Asserts the rigorous courses of study supplement, not supplant courses offered by the school entity or the secondary school students. Provides departmental duties. Establishes the purpose of the program. Provides educator training grants to school entities, adding that a school entity that offers less than eight rigorous courses of study shall be deemed an eligible school entity that may apply for an educator training grant under the programs. Stipulates that a school entity that receives an educator training grant under the program shall offer rigorous courses of study in core academic areas in addition to any other academic areas. Requires rigorous course of study exam fee assistance from the department, mandating PDE to reimburse school entities 100% of the exam fee for each student at or below 185% of the federal poverty threshold who completes an exam and directing each school entity to certify to PDE the amount of reimbursement due on an annual basis. Mandates the department to establish guidelines and procedures necessary for the implementation of this article. Requires reporting and program funding. Provides rights of school employees. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 926)

Intro Date

03/12/2025

Actions

03/12/2025 H - Introduced

03/13/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

03/17/2025 H - First consideration, March 17, 2025

03/17/2025 H - Reported as amended - House Education

03/17/2025 H - Laid on the table, March 17, 2025

HB865 - An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Military Family Education Program, further providing for definitions, for eligibility, for Military Family Education Program grants and for limitations.

Sponsor

Rep. Arvind Venkat (D)

Summary

(PN 890) Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in Military Family Education Program, further providing for definitions, for eligibility, for Military Family Education Program grants and for limitations. Revises definition for "eligible member." Stipulates that a Military Family Education Program benefit shall be renewable with each six-year service commitment in the Pennsylvania National Guard. Revises general rule and assignment of benefits to include each benefit earned. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

03/10/2025

Actions

03/10/2025 H - Introduced

03/11/2025 H - Referred to - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

03/19/2025 H - First consideration, March 19, 2025

03/19/2025 H - Laid on the table, March 19, 2025

03/19/2025 H - Reported as committed - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

HB976 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in pupils and attendance, further providing for exceptional children and education and training.

Sponsor

Rep. Valerie S. Gaydos (R)

Intro Date

03/19/2025

Actions

03/19/2025 H - Introduced

03/19/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1002 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in student supports, providing for parental notification of certain incidents required.

Sponsor

Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D)

Intro Date

03/20/2025

Actions

03/20/2025 H - Introduced

HR138 - A Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on the state of civic education in Pennsylvania and develop recommendations on cost-efficient, feasible steps that the Commonwealth can adopt to increase the accessibility and quality of civic education opportunities for students.

Sponsor

Rep. Tim Brennan (D)

Intro Date

03/19/2025

Actions

03/19/2025 H - Introduced

03/19/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

SB433 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in intermediate units, further providing for powers and duties of the intermediate unit board of directors and for capital subsidy.

Sponsor

Sen. Carolyn T. Comitta (D)

Intro Date

03/17/2025

Actions

03/17/2025 S - Introduced

03/17/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

SB470 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, further providing for firefighter and emergency service training and establishing the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program and the Fire Training Fund.

Sponsor

Sen. Michele Brooks (R)

Summary

(PN 424) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for firefighter and emergency service training and establishing the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program and the Fire Training Fund. Replaces school district with a school entity or nonpublic school in the language of the section. Establishes the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program to provide high school students with instruction to increase the number of individuals capable of becoming volunteer firefighters. Requires the State Fire Commissioner to accept proposals from institutions of higher education in the state for the pilot program and requires the institution selected to operate the pilot program. Establishes the Fire Training Fund in the State Treasury and allows the commissioner to accept monetary donations and other money deposits for the fund. Establishes survey and reporting requirements. Adds definitions. Effective on January 1, 2026, or immediately, whichever is later.

Intro Date

03/18/2025

Actions

03/18/2025 S - Introduced

03/18/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

Higher Ed Bill Actions

HB265 - An Act amending the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937 P.L.2897, No.1), known as the Unemployment Compensation Law, in compensation, further providing for benefits based on service for educational institutions.

Sponsor

Rep. Lindsay Powell (D)

Summary

(PN 210) Amends the Unemployment Compensation Law, in compensation, further providing for benefits based on service for educational institutions. Adds that with respect to services performed on and after the effective date of this subclause, benefits shall be paid on the basis of such services to any individual described in subclause (i), regardless of whether or not there is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform those services in the second of such academic years or terms. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

01/21/2025

Actions

03/11/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/18/2025, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Labor and Industry), Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

03/18/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Labor and Industry

03/18/2025 H - Laid on the table, March 18, 2025

03/18/2025 H - First consideration, March 18, 2025

HB575 - An Act amending Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in professional and occupational licenses, further providing for definitions and providing for policy for the award of academic credit for military training; and making editorial changes.

Sponsor

Rep. Jacob D. Banta (R)

Summary

(PN 579) Amends Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 53 (Municipalities Generally), in professional and occupational licenses, further providing for definitions and providing for policy for the award of academic credit for military training; and making editorial changes. Amends Chapter 75 name to read "Licenses and Credits for Military Service and Training." Adds subchapters A, B and C for Title 51. Defines "institution of higher education." Provides a subchapter for academic credit. Requires the Department of Education (PDE) to adopt a policy for the award of academic credit to a student enrolled in an institution of higher education who has successfully completed a military training course or program, or who has obtained experiential learning, as part of the student's military service that is applicable to the student's certificate or degree requirements. Provides requirements for recommendation for academic credit, military transcript or written documentation by any of the armed forces of the United States. Provides duties of PDE. Requires copies of the PDE policy to be made and placed in an institution's public catalog. Makes editorial changes to reflect the Chapter 75 title name. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

02/11/2025

Actions

v03/05/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/17/2025, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 205, Ryan Office Building

03/07/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/19/2025, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness), Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

03/17/2025 H - Reported with request to re-refer to the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee - House Education

03/17/2025 H - Re-referred to - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

03/17/2025 H - Corrective Reprint, Printer's No. 959, March 17, 2025

HB938 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in the State System of Higher Education, further providing for Board of Governors.

Sponsor

Rep. Tim Briggs (D)

Summary

(PN 1004) Amends the Public School Code, in the State System of Higher Education, further providing for Board of Governors. Provides three members should be selected from trustees of the constituent institutions, but no more than one may represent a constituent institution. Provides one member must be a current or retired member of the state system bargaining unit of the American

Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and selected by the bargaining unit governing board. Establishes one member must be a current or retired member of the state system bargaining unit of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University faculties, selected by the governing board of the bargaining unit. Provides this member should have expertise or substantial experience in either postsecondary, education, finance, business, nonprofit management, law or public administration. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

03/17/2025

Actions

03/17/2025 H - Introduced

03/17/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB987 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in miscellaneous provisions relating to institutions of higher education, providing for prohibitions regarding ideological oaths or statements, for prohibition on diversity, equity and inclusion offices and employees, for statements required to be included in mission statement, bylaws, faculty handbook and student handbook, for certain mandatory training prohibited, for revoking tenure for diversity, equity and inclusion violations and for spending restricted; and imposing penalties.

Sponsor

Rep. Milou Mackenzie (R)

Intro Date

03/20/2025

Actions

03/20/2025 H - Introduced

SB432 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in the State System of Higher Education, providing for educational opportunities for foster and adopted children.

Sponsor

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)

Intro Date

03/17/2025

Actions

03/17/2025 S - Introduced

03/17/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

Upcoming Events

MONDAY – 03/24/2025

10:00 AM, [Legislative Budget & Finance Committee](#)

Committee Meeting, Room 8E-B, East Wing

Meeting for the following: Adopt: HR 2024-318 (Rep. Matzie), Adopt: HR 2024-481 (Rep. Abney), and Executive Session.

TUESDAY – 03/25/2025

11:00 AM, [Living Wage for School Support Staff Press Conference](#)

Press Conference

11:30 AM, [PMEA Music Education Advocacy Day Press Conference](#)

Press Conference

PMEA Music Education Advocacy Day celebrates music education in Pennsylvania.

WEDNESDAY – 03/26/2025

9:00 AM, [Celebration of 500 Unified Champion Schools Press Conference](#)

Press Conference

Special Olympics PA (SOPA) would like to host a press conference to announce/celebrate surpassing the milestone of 500 Unified Champion Schools (UCS) around the commonwealth.

In the News

[03/14/2025 - Mastriano Introduces the Creation of Law in Our Schools Act](#)

[03/14/2025 - Pennsylvania Department of Education Announces Arlo Draws an Octopus as the 2025 PA One Book Selection](#)

[03/19/2025 - Resolution Recognizing Pennsylvania's Community Colleges Advances, Says Watro](#)

[03/20/2025 - AHN Schools of Nursing Now Accepting Applications for Part-Time and Full-Time Registered Nurse Programs](#)

[03/20/2025 - AG Sunday Joins Bipartisan Coalition Standing up for Veterans who were Denied Education Benefits](#)

[03/20/2025 - Senator Vincent Hughes' Statement on the Department of Education Executive Order: "A slap in the face to students, teachers, and parents"](#)

Education Recap is a comprehensive weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education related legislation in the Pennsylvania Capitol and is compiled and edited by PLS.

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