

March 21 – 27, 2025

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SESSION STATUS

At 1:24 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Monday, April 7, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 12:28 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, the Senate recessed until Monday, March 31, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

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 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.plsgovtrac.com) users. For more information, contact sales@mypls.com.

Press Conferences

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

ADVOCATES, LAWMAKERS URGE SUPPORT FOR CHILD CARE WORKFORCE

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | March 24, 2025

Members of the House Democratic Caucus joined Children First in the Main Capitol Rotunda today in support of a proposed \$55 million for recruitment and retention programs for child care workers in Pennsylvania.

Zaina Cahill, director of early childhood education policy, Children First, said her organization was joined by “champions of child care who understand the impact the sector has on children, working families and our economy.”

House Majority Leader Rep. Matthew Bradford (D-Montgomery) remarked child care is “not just a top issue for the House Democratic Caucus, but it is a top issue in this building in this budget year.” He discussed previous efforts by the House with the passing of the Dependent Care Tax Credit and said the tax credit was “a statement of principle that we needed to do more.” He talked about financial challenges Pennsylvanians face and referred to Governor Josh Shapiro’s budget proposal that includes a retention plan “to help fund and help retain those workers that are making sure that our kids get the type of care that we’d want for all of them.” He stated people will hear over the next few months “the need to double down.”

Rep. Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia), majority chairman, House Appropriations Committee, emphasized the impact child care makes on young children and said, “It helps the child on their educational trajectory.” He further stated, “So for those folks who say that they are pro-business, if they care about the economy, they should care about child care.” He regarded the retention plan proposal in the budget as a “thank you” to child care workers and urged colleagues to support the proposal.

Rep. Tina Davis (D-Bucks), secretary, House Democratic Caucus, provided a personal story to shed light on the financial difficulties families may face when paying for child care and other necessities. She also explained the child care tax credit legislation arose from the Child Care Coalition.

Rep. Leanne Krueger (D-Delaware), administrator, House Democratic Caucus, explained her situation as a “single mom for 10 years,” and added, “I could not do my job without high-quality child care.” She said she was “grateful” for the proposal in the budget and provided statistics in Delaware County detailing vacancies in child care centers. She concluded, “We’ve got a chance to get another win over the finish line, and we hope to be standing back before you when the budget passed to say that this was a victory this year.”

Rep. Morgan Cephas (D-Philadelphia), chairman, House Government Oversight, noted her positions within state government but said, “I have many hats, but the one hat that is the honor of my life is being an auntie to little Harper.” She described the child care system during the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on child centers closing and workers being laid off. She also talked about the federal government and said, “This is the time now, more than ever, that we must

continue to double down on ensuring that we have a child care system and infrastructure that works for every single family across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”

Rep. Jennifer O’Mara (D-Delaware) said she was “privileged” to have the support she needs for her kids, but noted it is not the case for others. She referred to the shortage of child care as “not just an inconvenience, but a crisis.” She talked about the staff who work in child care centers, noting they are trained professionals and are “among the most undervalued, lowest paid workers in our society.” She emphasized child care as “pro-family,” and she urged her colleagues across the aisle to “recognize this and join us.”

Rep. Gina Curry (D-Delaware) emphasized the child care system as “broken and it’s costing Pennsylvania \$6.65 billion a year.” She noted the proposal in the budget and said, “For just \$55 million, a fraction of the \$6.65 billion, we can start to fix the system.” She argued the issues of child care and the economy as “deeply intertwined,” and regarded investing in child care as an “economic necessity.” She urged bipartisanship on the issue and said, “We must come together across party lines and make this our priority.” Rep. Paul Friel (D-Chester) said, “It’s often said that budgets are a reflection of our values.” He noted that other states are investing in child care retention bonuses and other initiatives. He asked colleagues, “Why don’t we want to be that in this commonwealth, and why wouldn’t we want to be a state leading the way?”

Rep. Joe Webster (D-Philadelphia) urged support for the proposal and said, “That creates an opportunity for the parent to go to work and be a great employee.” He reiterated the previous points mentioned and also pointed out the trend of both parents working in the workforce. He said, “The opportunity is right in front of us.”

Rep. Melissa Cerrato (D-Montgomery) said she was standing “before you as a passionate advocate” for child care and Children First. She spoke about her experiences as a mother and regarded child care as “the bedrock of our society.” She talked about child care vacancies in Montgomery County and argued the proposed funding “wasn’t just a number, it’s a lifeline.” She urged for the support of the proposal and said, “Child care is not a luxury, it’s a necessity.”

Rep. Napoleon Nelson (D-Montgomery) called child care workers “angels.” He discussed the importance of child care workers and the service they provide, including educating children. He talked about “gaps” in educational achievement and remarked child care workers are doing “God’s work.” He called for a “pipeline that has been growing to be torn down,” and urged for funding and paying the workers. He further stated, “When we’re not willing to step up and pay them the dollars that they are worth, we don’t get to look surprised when they leave.”

Rep. Tarik Khan (D-Philadelphia) provided his perspective as a nurse when it came to investing in children. He discussed the importance of pre-kindergarten education and the potential future impacts a child may have in their life. He said, “It’s good for the child because the children will not fall back in school and they’ll have better test grades, and they’re more likely to own a home when they get older.” He further said, “They’re more likely to have a well-paying job and when they get older, they’re less likely to be involved in their criminal justice system because of pre-K.” He called for paying child care workers more and argued the proposal was “good for the economy.”

Rep. Steven Malagari (D-Montgomery) reiterated previous points made by his colleagues, and added, “We all know that child care isn’t just a service, it’s the foundation of our economy, our workforce, our future, but right now, our child care system is hanging by a thread.” He provided examples of “unexpected costs,” and how they can affect a child care center. He urged the House to “get this done.”

Dr. Leslie Spina, executive director, Kinder Academy, talked about her experience in child care and the importance of providing child care and paying child care workers. She called for a pay parity and gave examples of workers leaving to find better-paying jobs. Regarding child care work, she said, “This is not a job of last resort – early childhood education is a career.” She emphasized the importance of investing in early childhood education and care and also stated, “I cannot be upset when a parent says to me, ‘I have to leave because I cannot afford to pay my rent, and I need to go somewhere where I can’ and we hear this on a regular basis.” She also did not want people to be “confused” because they are under the Department of Human Services (DHS), and said, “We are part of the education system.”

Mai Miksic, deputy director of policy, Children First, thanked all lawmakers who attended the press conference and for sharing their remarks. She argued for the support of the proposal and concluded, “An investment of \$55 million for a recruitment and retention fund is a start and we look forward to a strong investment in the child care workforce, which would result in huge economic returns to the commonwealth and people living here.”



PSEA ESP WORKERS, LEGISLATORS ADVOCATE FOR \$20/HOUR WAGE INCREASE

By Julia Walters, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | March 25, 2025

Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) members, along with education support professionals (ESPs) and legislators, gathered today on the Main Capitol Steps to lobby for a living wage of at least \$20/hour.

Aaron Chapin, president, PSEA, welcomed everyone, especially the ESPs from around the state, to the press conference. “They are the first ones to get to school in the morning, literally turning on the lights. They are the last ones to leave long after the kids have gone home,” he described ESPs. He discussed the significant impact they have on students, from the bus drivers and cafeteria workers to aides working directly with children in the classroom. Chapin expressed his excitement and support for [House Bill 777](#), which would raise ESP wages to at least \$20 per hour. He added that this would give 45% of school support staff an average wage increase of at least \$2.90 per hour. “Let’s pay them a living wage and show them that this is a job where they can make a difference without having to go broke,” Chapin emphasized.

Rep. Dan Miller (D-Allegheny), prime sponsor of HB 777, described a conversation he recently had with a paraprofessional in his district. “She talked about the difference that she used to be able to make when she had the timing, the support, the ratio, the numbers that made her low wage a little bit better for her to be able to swallow,” he said. He mentioned, while she loved her job, she struggled with the little amount of support until she had to quit. Rep. Miller continued, stating \$20 “is not good enough... \$20 does not represent the difference these people make from the busses to the classroom and providing that supportive network that makes every child feel welcome in school.” Rep. Miller mentioned the positive relationship he had with his school bus driver, Curtis, who drove him to and from school throughout his childhood. He highlighted that ESPs are sometimes the best friend a child has in school. He stated that ESPs often work through struggles such as low wages and low staffing because of the children they support. “They go, you know what? I got to go because I know it’s a tough day for the kid, and I’m not quite sure if anybody else is going to be there to support that child,” Rep. Miller said. “But you got to be sure they can put gas in the car.”

Rudy Burruss, president, ESP, PSEA, expressed his excitement to be in Harrisburg for a significant cause. “We’re here because more than 41,000 education support professionals earn less than a living wage. That’s 45% of 91,000 ESPs in this commonwealth who work in our public schools,” he said. Burruss thanked Rep. Miller and Rep. Jim Prokopiak (D-Bucks) for their work in advocating for ESP wage increases. “We’re going to tell our stories, and we’ll tell it to anybody that’s going to listen, that every single one of us should get paid a living wage,” Burruss emphasized.

Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia) expressed that caring for ESPs is equivalent to caring for children. “If we’re not investing in... the teachers and the support staff and everyone else in a school building, then all the words about saying that we love our children are all nonsense,” he stated. He mentioned a few statements on behalf of Sen. Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia), who couldn’t be present due to “logistical issues.” Sen. Hughes noted both he and Sen. Tartaglione worked together “when the State of Pennsylvania took it upon itself to raise its minimum wage in 2006– we’ve won that fight.” On Sen. Tartaglione’s behalf, Sen. Hughes said ESPs are the “backbone of our education system,” and without them, schools would not function. He continued with Sen. Tartaglione’s statements, mentioning their low wages are “unacceptable” and that strong schools cannot be built with underpaid workers. Sen. Hughes stated he will stand with ESPs “in spite of the orange madness– I said it.”

Chapin introduced Becky Marszalek to speak next, mentioning her accolades as the Dolores McCracken ESP of the Year award for the 2024-2025 school year.

Becky Marszalek, paraprofessional, Avonworth Elementary School, described her experience winning the Dolores McCracken award and meeting other ESPs from around the commonwealth. “We all share a common goal,” she said. “We work hard every day to ensure students have the support they need to thrive and succeed. That is what it is all about– our students.” She discussed the “strong bonds” she forms with her students. She shared an anecdote about a student who was a wheelchair-user and wanted to be part of his school’s marching band. “I learned all marching band routines. I went to band camp... pushing him in his wheelchair so that he could be part of it all. And I loved every minute of it. So did he,” Marszalek said. She mentioned public opinion polls that show a push for increased wages for ESPs as well. She noted a PSEA-conducted poll that found 81% of Pennsylvania voters, which she equated to about four out of five people, support raising ESP wages. “In fact, people in that poll ranked increasing pay as the number one solution to the school staff shortage crisis,” Marszalek stated. She expressed the desire to “empower” ESPs to continue to “change the lives of a generation of students without going broke.”

Rep. Jim Prokopiak (D-Bucks), co-sponsor of HB 777, thanked Rep. Miller for his leadership on HB 777, as well as his colleagues supporting this issue and the ESPs who showed up to the event. He shared his experiences working with ESPs as the parent of three children. He mentioned one paraprofessional present at the press conference who helped his son when he broke his arm. "I know how important you are... you do an incredibly difficult job for not the best pay, and you do it because you love it," Rep. Prokopiak said.

Katie Long, paraprofessional, Pennsbury School District, expressed how "deeply" she cares for her students. "We quite literally devote our lives to teaching and serving the children who learn in our public schools," Long said. She highlighted the work shortage that ESPs face and that the solution for this is to pay a more livable wage for "caring, qualified" workers.

Chapin thanked everyone for supporting the rally and ended the press conference.



Committee News

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

Legislative Budget & Finance Committee

03/24/2025, 8:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing

Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held an officer's meeting to consider two resolutions.

[HR 318](#) - (PN 2593) Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct a study, issue a report and make recommendations on the current status, management, structure, policies and finances of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). Replaces "middle" with "junior high." Strikes language stating there have been consistent concerns and serious questions raised. Adds that the study will include an examination and review, in collaboration with a public accounting firm that compiles PIAA's annual audited financial statements, of the financial transactions of PIAA as reflected on PIAA's regularly maintained accounts with financial institutions or as disclosed on PIAA's annual IRS form 990 and any companion filings with the Bureau of Charitable Organizations of the Department of State during the previous three years, broadcast agreements entered into by PIAA during the previous four years, the name, image and likeness policy of PIAA, the revised competition classification formula used by PIAA when available after acceptance by PIAA member schools, the transfer policy of PIAA, requests for proposals used to determine the location of state championship games, the composition of the board of directors of PIAA and the feasibility of recommending to PIAA the addition of State departmental and legislative appointees to the board of directors and the expansion and enhancement of the oversight authority of the Pennsylvania Athletic Oversight Committee. Inserts that LBFC will ensure that communications covered by the attorney-work product doctrine or attorney-client privilege are protected during the study and that expenses incurred by PIAA in cooperating with LBFC for the study do not exceed \$25,000. The resolution was unanimously **adopted** to be presented to the whole committee.

[HR 481](#) - (PN 3356) Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and make recommendations on non-academic barriers students face getting accepted into career and technical education programs and identifying the barriers. The resolution was unanimously **adopted** to be presented to the whole committee.

The officer's meeting concluded with an Executive Session.



Senate Appropriations Committee

03/24/25, 3:45 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

Chairman Scott Martin (R-Lancaster) announced that the Grow PA Scholarship Grant Program opened 10 days ago and more than 4,000 students have signed up.

[SB 130](#) - (PN 79) Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, providing for burial benefits. Requires a licensed funeral director, funeral entity or cemetery company, within 96 hours of receipt of the remains of a deceased serviceperson, to notify the county director of veterans affairs of a deceased serviceperson having legal residence in the county at the time of death and provide the family of the deceased serviceperson with the contact information for the county director of veterans affairs. Specifies that the requirements only apply to a cemetery company if the cemetery company provides internment for the cremated remains of a deceased serviceperson for whom a licensed funeral director or funeral entity provided no goods or services. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill has no impact on commonwealth funds.

[SB 146](#) - (PN 131) Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further providing for Veterans' Trust Fund; and establishing the Veterans' Trust Fund Board as an advisory board within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to increase donations to ensure the effective management and impactful distribution of money in the Veterans' Trust Fund. Imposes duties on the board. Stipulates that members of the board shall be veterans, family members of veterans and individuals who have extensive experience in serving veterans. Specifies that consideration shall be given to subject matter experts in veterans issues regarding behavioral health, mental health, posttraumatic stress disorder injuries, physical disabilities, housing or other social determinants of health in determining who to appoint to the board. Outlines who the board shall consist of and provides that members appointed by the governor to the board shall serve for a term of four years until a successor has been appointed. Establishes the terms for which the initial board members appointed by the governor shall serve. Allows the governor to declare a vacancy upon recommendation from the adjutant general if a member appointed by the governor fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the board without good cause, directing the governor to fill a declared vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term. Requires the board to annually elect a chairperson and minority chairperson at the first meeting commencing no later than March 31, 2025, and DMVA to designate an executive secretary to the board. Specifies that members of the board shall not receive compensation for their services but shall receive reimbursement for their necessary and proper expenses incurred. Provides that members shall meet upon the call of the chairperson or the deputy adjutant general of veterans' affairs and that six members shall constitute a quorum. Prohibits voting members of the board from being current employees of DMVA. Provides for if a member of the board has an interest in an organization applying for a grant from the fund. Requires DMVA to submit a performance audit to the chairpersons and minority chairpersons of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees by July 31, 2026, and every two years thereafter. Specifies that the performance audit shall be conducted under the generally accepted government auditing standards and examine the impacts on veterans by organizations funded through the fund. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 93). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill has no impact on commonwealth funds.

[SB 202](#) - (PN 134) Amends the Money Transmission Business Licensing Law, further providing for title of act to include virtual currency and for the definitions of "agent" and "transmittal instrument" to include virtual currency and defining "virtual currency;" providing for short title to be known and may be cited as the Money Transmission and Virtual Currency Transmission Business Licensing Law; 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. Amends language throughout the law to provide for virtual currency. Provides for the Money Transmission and Virtual Currency Transmission Business Licensing Law to require licensing for business engagements in transmitting virtual currency by means of a transmittal instrument for a fee or other consideration, to provide for virtual currency transmissions, to provide for trust companies and amend language regarding the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund and to require license applicants to have a tangible net worth of at least \$500,000 as determined by audited financials prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill has no impact on commonwealth funds.

[SB 404](#) - (PN 383) Amends the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, providing for county conservation district stream reconstruction emergency permit authorizations. Permits a county conservation district with an approved delegation agreement per sections 6 and 17 and sections 9(11) and 11(2) of the Conservation District Law to administer certain activities under 25 Pa. Code Ch. 105 (relating to dam safety and waterway management) to request an amendment to the approved delegation agreement for the Water Obstruction and Encroachment Program from the department for the specified purposes. Allows a county conservation district to propose methodologies for stream reconstruction activities in response to or in anticipation of significant flood events to restore the natural regimen and ecology of watercourses using appropriate methodologies that are based on current scientific principles and practices and are per 25 Pa. Code Ch. 105. Directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to review a proposed county stream reconstruction program for conformance with current scientific principles and practices and 25 Pa. Code Ch. 105 and provide a record of decision on the proposed county stream reconstruction program to the county conservation district, including a detailed technical review of the proposed county stream reconstruction program. Outlines duties and provisions for county conservation districts and DEP upon approval of the county stream reconstruction program. Provides for persons aggrieved by a county conservation district or DEP. Mandates DEP to provide notice to each county conservation district of the availability of a county stream reconstruction program within 60 days of the effective date. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Democrats voting in the negative.

Chairman Martin said the administration of the bill can be achieved within the department's current budget.

[SB 403](#) - (PN 382) Amends the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, providing for issuance of and conditions for continuous maintenance permits. Requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a continuous maintenance permit for which the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) or a municipality may apply, stipulating that the permit shall allow permittees to maintain, inspect and monitor watercourses, water obstructions, appurtenant works and encroachments as specified within the permit. Mandates DEP to approve an application for a permit to an applicant if the applicant is without a sustained history of significant permit violations under this act and takes an affirmative duty over the watercourses, water obstructions, appurtenant works and encroachments delineated in the permit application. Provides for the submission of a watercourse alone. Allows a permittee to amend the permit. Does not require a permittee to seek preapproval or further authorization from DEP for maintenance conducted under the permit. Specifies what the permit shall provide for. Outlines what a permittee shall provide to DEP by Jan. 15 of each year. Stipulates that a permit granted by DEP to a permittee shall be in effect for no less than 10 years. Directs DEP to extend a permit to a permittee for 10 years following 10 years of operation without a permit violation. Asserts that a permit violation shall be found to have occurred when the permittee failed to address an alleged violation in the manner prescribed by DEP within one year of receipt of the notice of an alleged permit violation, but not when a permittee removes or manipulates obstructions or debris within or along a watercourse in a manner that enables water obstructions, appurtenant works or encroachments specified within the permit to operate consistent with applicable plans, specifications, reports and designs previously prepared by a registered professional engineer. Mandates the permittee to accept an affirmative duty to maintain, inspect and monitor watercourses, water obstructions, appurtenant works and encroachments as specified within the permit. Defines "municipality." Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Democrats voting in the negative.

Chairman Martin said the administration of the bill can be achieved within the department's current budget.



Senate Education Committee

03/25/2025, 10:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing

By Daniel Sachetta, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider two bills.

Chairman Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-Columbia) looked forward to a good session as the committee's new chairman. She recognized the previous chairman as well as the new members of the committee.

Minority Chairman Lindsey Williams (D-Allegheny) recalled this as her third session as the minority chairman of the committee. She highlighted the open-door policy that both chairs hope to have for all stakeholders, students and educators. She emphasized the importance of this committee to make sure education is funded for all Pennsylvanians.

[SB 470](#) – (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. This bill was **reported as committed** with Sen. Dawn Keefer (R-York) voting in the negative.

Sen. Keefer asked if there was anything in the current law prohibiting a school from establishing a fire training program with an accredited fire training institution. Cheryl Kleiman, Democratic executive director, asked Sen. Keefer if she was referring to a higher education institution. Sen. Keefer specified she was asking about secondary schools, wondering if there was anything that currently prevented high schools from establishing these programs. Kleiman said she was unaware of anything but would look into the issue and get back to her.

[SB 315](#) – (PN 249) Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for career and technical education equipment grants. Requires the Department of Education (PDE) to use data for the calculations under this section based on the most recent years for which data is available, as determined by PDE, and shall fix the data as of the first day of June preceding the school year in which the allocation occurs. Stipulates that if, after the data based on the first day of June is found by PDE to be incorrect, PDE shall revise the calculations accordingly. Effective immediately. This bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland) thanked Chairman Williams for her work on career and technical education funding. He emphasized the importance of these programs for many students across the commonwealth.



Senate Education Committee

03/26/2025, 9:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing
Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider one bill.

[SB 9](#) - (PN 177) The Fairness in Women's Sports Act provides for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creates causes of action for harm suffered by designation. Provides definitions. Prohibits athletic teams or sports designated for females, women or girls from being open to students of the male sex. Allows students to participate in an interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic team or sport designed for the student's sex or designated coed or mixed. Prohibits a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization or an athletic association or organization from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation or taking any other adverse action against a school or institution of higher education for maintaining separate interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic teams or sports for students of the female sex. Permits a student who is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a known violation to bring a cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, psychological, emotional and physical harm suffered, attorney fees and costs and any other relief available under law against the school or institution of higher education. Allows a student who is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a school, institution of higher education or athletic association or organization as a result of reporting a violation to an employee or representative of the school, institution or athletic association or organization or to any federal or state agency with oversight of schools or institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania to bring a cause of action. Permits a school or institution of higher education that suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a violation to bring cause of action. Prohibits a person from bringing a civil action later than two years after the day on which the harm underlying the cause of action occurs. Provides that if a part of this act is found invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part shall remain in effect. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line, with Democrats voting in the negative.

Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York), co-sponsor of the bill, expressed her support for the bill and provided a brief historical background on the creation of Title IX. She praised President Donald Trump's executive order "keeping men out of women's sports," saying the order was a "step in the right direction." She also discussed her experience as a high school athlete and said, "I had a fair fight to

earn that roster spot, I had a fair fight to climb to the top of the podium when my time in the pool was the fastest and I had a fair fight to earn an athletic scholarship.”

Sen. Judy Ward (R-Blair), the bill’s prime sponsor, asked her colleagues for support of her bill and explained her bill “has nothing to do with someone’s gender identity – this is about biological sex.” She stated further, “Spots have never been separated based on gender identity, rather by biological sex.” She provided details on the reasons for separation, including “physical advantages” between men and women. She argued Title IX was created to “end discrimination and create equal athletic opportunities for women.”

Sen. Dawn Keefer (R-York) said the bill “has long been awaited.” She talked about her experience with Title IX and said she was “shocked by the conflated narrative.” She stated, “This isn’t an issue or concern about sociology – this is about biology, our inherent nature, and I’ve been frustrated watching our young women struggle over the past several years to compete on a fair platform and have opportunities and victories swiped from them.”

Sen. Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland) voiced support for the bill and talked about his young daughters competing in sports. He discussed the importance of sports in children’s lives and how sports “gives confidence” in winning and losing. He emphasized, “The key to managing failure is to lose fairly and to know that you had a fair fight.”

Sen. Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester) said she would be voting against the legislation. She regarded the bill as a “distraction and a solution in search of a problem.” She noted changes in transgender policies from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) and suggested those authorities handle the matter. She voiced support for women’s sports but also suggested for the committee to support women’s sports by “increasing state funding to lower tuition, investing in women’s athletic programs and facilities, supporting scholarships to allow student athletes to focus on school and athletics without having to work multiple jobs or go heavily into debt to afford higher education.”

Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin) said, “Girls deserve to compete on a level playing field and allowing biological males to share the field to compete in girls’ sports destroys fair competition and women’s athletic opportunities.” He described the “rolling back of Title IX” and stated it “allows the patriarchy to once again dominate women in women’s sports.” He voiced his support for “following the science” and dismissed the characterization of the legislation as a “distraction.”

Sen. Tim Kearney (D-Delaware) talked about his experience coaching his daughter’s travel soccer team and urged colleagues to “keep in mind from the perspective of trans children and young adults, because that’s who this legislation really impacts.” He said he did not see “statistics about the number of athletes we’re talking about” but talked about the coverage surrounding University of Pennsylvania swimmer Lia Thomas. He discussed his experiences knowing people who have transitioned and are in the process of transitioning, and he said, “I can’t imagine how strong the urge or the will must be to go through to transition.” He criticized the bill and stated, “This is a message that tells them this isn’t a solution to the problem, you are the problem.”

Minority Chairman Lindsey Williams (D-Allegheny) said she was going to speak “directly to the girls this bill insults.” She criticized the bill and said, “I want all girls to know that there are elected officials like me who believe female bodies are just as strong as fast and capable as male bodies, because notably, this bill only seeks to ban trans girls from playing sports, not trans boys.” She further criticized the bill saying, “That’s what the premise of this bill assumes, that female bodies are less than male bodies.” She told a brief story when she was in high school of racing a boy in swimming and she said she “kicked his butt.” She concluded by stating, “All girls deserve to have the experience that I did, playing a sport that they love and thriving into adulthood, and a vote for this bill is in support of an idea that girls are less capable than boys– we are not.”

Chairman Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-Northumberland) praised the bill and said, “Our girls deserve the opportunity to compete on an even playing field.” She reiterated previous points made regarding “competitive advantages” and said, “These are not hypothetical examples. We’ve been contacted over and over again.” She referenced Sen. Scott Martin’s (R-Lancaster) statement regarding wrestlers and boxers, saying, “There’s a reason wrestlers and boxers compete in weight classes for safety and fairness.” She concluded, “We are elected to share the collective voice of our constituents, and I believe the overwhelming majority of my constituents believe that girls should not be forced to compete against biological men.”



Bullet.in.Points

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE: FILLING CRITICAL PUBLIC SERVICE VACANCIES BY RECRUITING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TALENT AND EXPERTISE

The Governor's Office issued an order directing the Office of Administration to consider relevant federal government work experience as equivalent to commonwealth work experience for the commonwealth's top recruitment needs. Additional information is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE: INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE TO BE PAID TO PERSONS EMPLOYED BY, AND BY MEANS OF CONTRACTS WITH, COMMONWEALTH AGENCIES UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S JURISDICTION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

The Governor's Office issued an order raising the minimum wage to employees of commonwealth agencies under the governor's jurisdiction to \$17.31 per hour. Additional information is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO306 - Protecting the Integrity of the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund (former HB 1915)

Sponsor

Rep. Perry A. Stambaugh (R)

Summary

Ensures that during future budget cycles, Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund funding for Pennsylvania's land grant university will not be "coupled" to the passage of other non-preferred appropriations and shall be made a continuing appropriation.

Intro Date

12/05/2024

Last Action

03/25/2025 H - Introduced HB1047

HCO1306 - Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act

Sponsor

Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)

Summary

Aims to allow people who participate in and complete vocational and educational programs while in prison to earn credits that can accelerate, but not guarantee, earlier parole consideration.

Intro Date

01/27/2025

Last Action

03/25/2025 H - Introduced HB1042

HCO1388 - LGBTQ+ Inclusive Curriculum

Sponsor

Rep. Joseph C. Hohenstein (D)

Summary

Aims to mandate the inclusion of the important political, economic, and social contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals in Pennsylvania's K-12 curriculum.

Intro Date

01/31/2025

Last Action

03/25/2025 H - Introduced HB1040

HCO1417 - Requiring Holocaust Education in Schools

Sponsor

Rep. Joe Webster (D)

Summary

Requires all Pennsylvania schools to teach about the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights violations.

Intro Date

02/03/2025

Last Action

03/25/2025 H - Introduced HB1054

HCO1929 - Dissolution of Power from the U.S. Department of Education to the States

Sponsor

Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)

Summary

A resolution urging Congressional support for legislation that would decentralize educational authority from the U.S. Department of Education to state governments

Intro Date

03/25/2025

Last Action

03/26/2025 H - Introduced HR146

SCO349 - Crisis Prevention Hotline on College IDs**Sponsor**

Sen. Nick Miller (D)

Summary

Requires higher education institutions in Pennsylvania to print the national 9-8-8 crisis hotline number on student identification cards.

Intro Date

12/11/2024

Last Action

03/21/2025 S - Introduced SB492

SCO529 - Protecting LGBTQ Students from Discrimination**Sponsor**

Sen. Lindsey Marie Williams (D)

Summary

Aims to protect LGBTQ+ students from discrimination by schools that receive funding through Educational Improvement and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits (EITC & OSTC).

Intro Date

01/08/2025

Last Action

03/21/2025 S - Introduced SB496

Basic Ed Bill Actions

HB325 - An Act amending the act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873, No.1), known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in taxation by school districts, further providing for school district tax notices.

Sponsor

Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski (D)

Summary

(PN 507) Amends the Taxpayer Relief Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in taxation by school districts, further providing for school district tax notices. Adds a definition for "conspicuous." Replaces "property tax relief" with "State Gaming Fund tax reduction" under section 343 regarding school district tax notices. Adds the notice provisions for state gaming fund tax reductions. Specifies that casino gaming revenue is the source for the property tax reduction included on property tax bills. Effective immediately. (Prior PN 281)

Intro Date

01/24/2025

Actions

02/05/2025 H - Reported as amended - House Finance

02/05/2025 H - First consideration

02/05/2025 H - Laid on the table

03/26/2025 H - Removed from table

04/07/2025 H - Placed on HVS

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

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

03/25/2025 H - Removed from table

03/26/2025 H - Placed on HVS

03/26/2025 H - Second consideration

03/26/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Appropriations

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 985) 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, revising class 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. Provides provisions for payments, conditions and benefits to beneficiaries. Requires the additional liability for the increase in benefits provided to be funded as provided in section 5508(e)(2) (relating to actuarial cost method). Outlines who is an eligible benefit recipient, revising class requirements. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 383)

Intro Date

01/29/2025

Actions

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

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

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

03/24/2025 H - Removed from table

03/25/2025 H - Placed on HVS

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)

Summary

(PN 1089) Amends the Public School Code, in student supports, providing for parental notification of certain incidents required. Directs school entities to adopt a policy on how to notify the parents or legal guardians of each student who threatens suicide or is involved in an incident of bullying beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Directs the policy to be posted on the school entities' website. Directs school entities to produce and maintain a record verifying that the parent or legal guardian was notified of the incident or threat. Directs school entities to provide the parent or legal guardian with suicide prevention materials and information. Directs the Department of Education to develop a model policy on how to notify parents and post it on its website. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

03/20/2025

Actions

03/20/2025 H - Introduced

03/24/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1040 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for Diversity Inclusive Curriculum Pilot Program.

Sponsor

Rep. Joseph C. Hohenstein (D)

Intro Date

03/25/2025

Actions

03/25/2025 H - Introduced

03/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1042 - An Act amending Titles 61 (Prisons and Parole) and 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general administration, providing for earned vocational training and education credit; in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing for parole power and for short sentence parole; and, in powers and duties, further providing for consideration of criminal convictions.

Sponsor

Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)

Intro Date

03/25/2025

Actions

03/25/2025 H - Introduced

03/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Judiciary

HB1043 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school health services, further providing for definitions, for possession and use of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors, for school access to emergency epinephrine and for administration of epinephrine auto-injectors by school bus drivers and school crossing guards.

Sponsor

Rep. Arvind Venkat (D)

Intro Date

03/25/2025

Actions

03/25/2025 H - Introduced

03/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Health

HB1045 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school health services, further providing for seizure recognition and related first aid training.

Sponsor

Rep. Carol Kazeem (D)

Intro Date

03/25/2025

Actions

03/25/2025 H - Introduced

03/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1054 - 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 Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction.

Sponsor

Rep. Joe Webster (D)

Intro Date

03/25/2025

Actions

03/25/2025 H - Introduced

03/26/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1069 - 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 military child advance enrollment.

Sponsor

Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)

Intro Date

03/27/2025

Actions

03/27/2025 H - Introduced

HR146 - A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to fully cooperate with Federal efforts to eliminate the United States Department of Education, reaffirming Pennsylvania's sovereign authority over its educational system and recognizing the need for State-led education solutions to improve outcomes for Pennsylvania students.

Sponsor

Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)

Intro Date

03/26/2025

Actions

03/26/2025 H - Introduced

03/26/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

SB9 - An Act providing for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creating causes of action for harm suffered by designation.

Sponsor

Sen. Judy Ward (R)

Summary

(PN 177) The Fairness in Women's Sports Act provides for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creates causes of action for harm suffered by designation. Provides definitions. Prohibits athletic teams or sports designated for females, women or girls from being open to students of the male sex. Allows students to participate in an interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic team or sport designed for the student's sex or designated coed or mixed. Prohibits a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization or an athletic association or organization from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation or taking any other adverse action against a school or institution of higher education for maintaining separate interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic teams or sports for students of the female sex. Permits a student who is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a known violation to bring a cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, psychological, emotional and physical harm suffered, attorney fees and costs and any other relief available under law against the school or institution of higher education. Allows a student who is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a school, institution of higher education or athletic association or organization as a result of reporting a violation to an employee or representative of the school, institution or athletic association or organization or to any federal or state agency with oversight of schools or institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania to bring a cause of action. Permits a school or institution of higher education that suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a violation to bring cause of action. Prohibits a person from bringing a civil action later than two years after the day on which the harm underlying the cause of action occurs. Provides that if a part of this act is found invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part shall remain in effect. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

02/03/2025

Actions

02/18/2025 S - Discussed during budget hearing with PASSHE & PHEAA - Senate Appropriations

03/21/2025 S - Meeting Scheduled - 03/26/2025, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (Senate Education), Room 8E-A, East Wing

03/26/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

03/26/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

03/26/2025 S - First consideration

SB96 - An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for the offense of terroristic threats.

Sponsor

Sen. Michele Brooks (R)

Summary

(PN 51) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in assault, further providing for the offense of terroristic threats. Removes language providing for restitution and adds language providing for the costs of responding to a threat which outlines what a person convicted of violating this section or adjudicated delinquent shall be sentenced to pay. Makes editorial changes. Adds that a threat relating to a school entity or institution of higher education constitutes a felony of the third degree. Specifies definitions. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

01/22/2025

Actions

03/25/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Judiciary

03/25/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Judiciary

03/25/2025 S - First consideration

03/26/2025 S - Second consideration

03/26/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

SB315 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in career and technical education, further providing for career and technical education equipment grants.

Sponsor

Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R)

Summary

(PN 249) Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for career and technical education equipment grants. Requires the Department of Education (PDE) to use data for the calculations under this section based on the most recent years for which data is available, as determined by PDE, and shall fix the data as of the first day of June preceding the school year in which the allocation occurs. Stipulates that if, after the data based on the first day of June is found by PDE to be incorrect, PDE shall revise the calculations accordingly. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

02/26/2025

Actions

03/25/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

03/25/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

03/25/2025 S - First consideration

03/26/2025 S - Second consideration

03/26/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

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

03/25/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

03/25/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

03/25/2025 S - First consideration

03/26/2025 S - Second consideration

03/26/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

SB479 - 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, providing for moment of silence on January 6 anniversary.

Sponsor

Sen. Arthur L Haywood (D)

Intro Date

03/21/2025

Actions

03/21/2025 S - Introduced

03/21/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

SB496 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in educational tax credits, further providing for school participation in program.

Sponsor

Sen. Lindsey Marie Williams (D)

Intro Date

03/21/2025

Actions

03/21/2025 S - Introduced

03/21/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

SB497 - An Act providing for testing for dangerous levels of radon and remediation measures in school buildings, residential buildings, residential homes and commercial buildings; and imposing penalties.

Sponsor

Sen. Christine M. Tartaglione (D)

Intro Date

03/21/2025

Actions

03/21/2025 S - Introduced

03/21/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Environmental Resources and Energy

SB499 - A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, prohibiting implementation of laws relating to unfunded education mandates.

Sponsor

Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R)

Intro Date

03/21/2025

Actions

03/21/2025 S - Introduced

03/21/2025 S - Referred to - Senate State Government

Higher Ed Bill Actions

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)

Summary

(PN 1079) Amends the Public School Code, 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. Prohibits public institutions of higher education from requiring or giving preferential consideration for ideological oaths or statements that undermine academic freedom and open inquiry, with specifications. Mandates that public institutions of higher education will submit a report to the Department of Education (PDE), president pro-tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives asserting their compliance with this section no later than December 1 of each year, beginning with December 1, 2025. Provides definitions. Prohibits institutions of higher education from creating and/or maintaining a diversity, equity and inclusion office, including engaging in a contract with a third party to perform these duties. Prohibits this section from being construed to limit certain authorities of an institution of higher education. Prohibits this section from being construed to ban bona fide qualifications based on sex reasonably necessary for the operations of the institution of higher education. Allows individuals to notify the Attorney General for violations of this section. Provides procedure for employee violations. Requires PDE to keep a record of those who violate this section. Prohibits public institutions of higher education from hiring an employee from PDE's violation list with specifications. Provides penalties. Prohibits moneys under this section from going toward public institutions of higher education that have violated this section during the two state fiscal years preceding the state fiscal year for which the appropriation is made. Provides specifications regarding a public institution of higher education's mission statement. Requires public institutions of higher education to implement contents of specified reports issued by the University of Chicago. Allows students or employees of the public institution of higher education required to participate in training in violation with this section to bring action the institution. Provides procedures for a public institution of higher education if action is brought against them under this section. Provides additional penalties under this section. Provides additional appropriation details. Asserts that violations under this section are considered good cause for revoking tenure. Asserts a public institution of higher education may not spend moneys appropriated by the General Assembly for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter until the institution posts their compliance with this act on their public website. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

03/20/2025

Actions

03/20/2025 H - Introduced

03/24/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1044 - An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in epinephrine auto-injector entities, further providing for scope of chapter, for definitions and for epinephrine auto-injectors for authorized entities; and making an editorial change.

Sponsor

Rep. Arvind Venkat (D)

Intro Date

03/25/2025

Actions

03/25/2025 H - Introduced

03/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Health

HB1047 - An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in Board of Finance and Revenue, further providing for restricted account within Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund.

Sponsor

Rep. Perry A. Stambaugh (R)

Intro Date

03/25/2025

Actions

03/25/2025 H - Introduced

03/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Appropriations

HR146 - A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to fully cooperate with Federal efforts to eliminate the United States Department of Education, reaffirming Pennsylvania's sovereign authority over its educational system and recognizing the need for State-led education solutions to improve outcomes for Pennsylvania students.

Sponsor

Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)

Intro Date

03/26/2025

Actions

03/26/2025 H - Introduced

03/26/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

SB9 - An Act providing for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creating causes of action for harm suffered by designation.

Sponsor

Sen. Judy Ward (R)

Summary

(PN 177) The Fairness in Women's Sports Act provides for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creates causes of action for harm suffered by designation. Provides definitions. Prohibits athletic teams or sports designated for females, women or girls from being open to students of the male sex. Allows students to participate in an interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic team or sport designed for the student's sex or designated coed or mixed. Prohibits a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization or an athletic association or organization from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation or taking any other adverse action against a school or institution of higher education for maintaining separate interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic teams or sports for students of the female sex. Permits a student who is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a known violation to bring a cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, psychological, emotional and physical harm suffered, attorney fees and costs and any other relief available under law against the school or institution of higher education. Allows a student who is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a school, institution of higher education or athletic association or organization as a result of reporting a violation to an employee or representative of the school, institution or athletic association or organization or to any federal or state agency with oversight of schools or institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania to bring a cause of action. Permits a school or institution of higher education that suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a violation to bring cause of action. Prohibits a person from bringing a civil action later than two years after the day on which the harm underlying the cause of action occurs. Provides that if a part of this act is found invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part shall remain in effect. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

02/03/2025

Actions

02/18/2025 S - Discussed during budget hearing with PASSHE & PHEAA - Senate Appropriations

03/21/2025 S - Meeting Scheduled - 03/26/2025, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (Senate Education), Room 8E-A, East Wing

03/26/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

03/26/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

03/26/2025 S - First consideration

SB96 - An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for the offense of terroristic threats.

Sponsor

Sen. Michele Brooks (R)

Summary

(PN 51) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in assault, further providing for the offense of terroristic threats. Removes language providing for restitution and adds language providing for the costs of responding to a threat which outlines what a person convicted of violating this section or adjudicated delinquent shall be sentenced to pay. Makes editorial changes. Adds that a threat relating to a school entity or institution of higher education constitutes a felony of the third degree. Specifies definitions. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

01/22/2025

Actions

03/25/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Judiciary

03/25/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Judiciary

03/25/2025 S - First consideration

03/26/2025 S - Second consideration

03/26/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

SB479 - 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, providing for moment of silence on January 6 anniversary.

Sponsor

Sen. Arthur L Haywood (D)

Intro Date

03/21/2025

Actions

03/21/2025 S - Introduced

03/21/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

SB492 - An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in suicide prevention in institutions of higher education, further providing for definitions and providing for required suicide prevention and crisis management information.

Sponsor

Sen. Nick Miller (D)

Intro Date

03/21/2025

Actions

03/21/2025 S - Introduced

03/21/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY – 04/01/2025

11:30 AM, [Senate Institutional Sustainability & Innovation](#)

Public Hearing, Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Public hearing on life sciences innovation in Pennsylvania.

WEDNESDAY – 04/02/2025

9:30 AM, [Senate Education](#)

Public Hearing, Room 8E-B, East Wing

Public hearing to highlight the importance of career and technical education (CTE) in Pennsylvania.

TUESDAY – 04/15/2025

10:30 AM, [Homeschool Capitol Day Press Conference](#)

Press Conference

In the News

[03/21/2025 - PSERS Board Welcomes New Trustees](#)

[03/21/2025 - PSERS Board Endorses Enhanced Investment Transparency Standards](#)

[03/21/2025 - L&I: Getting Workforce Development Done: Shapiro Administration Joins Rosie's Girls Pre-Apprenticeship Program to Highlight Success of Strategic Commonwealth Investments in Workforce Initiatives](#)

[03/24/2025 - Sen. Muth Condemns Executive Order to Dismantle US Department of Education](#)

[03/25/2025 - DEP: Shapiro Administration Launches Grant Program to Help Schools and Childcare Facilities Eliminate Lead in Drinking Water](#)

[03/25/2025 - Senate Republicans: Senate Committee Advances Bill to Rein in Use of "Acting Secretaries"](#)

[03/25/2025 - PDE: Shapiro Administration Officials Visit Reading Area Community College to Stock Campus Food Pantry and Tackle Food Insecurity Through PA Hunger-Free Campus Initiative](#)

[03/26/2025 - Shapiro Administration Invests More Than \\$1.7 Million in New First Ascent Biomedical Lab at Gannon University in Erie, Spurring Innovation & Supporting Life Sciences in Pennsylvania](#)

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