

Education Recap



April 17 – 25, 2025

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SESSION STATUS

At 12:46 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Monday, May 5, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 12:51 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, the Senate recessed until Monday, May 5, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

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

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

No press conferences this week.

Committee News

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

House Children and Youth Committee

04/23/25, 9:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building
By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider a resolution.

[HR 195](#) - (PN 1381) Resolution designating the month of April 2025 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Brenda Pugh (R-Luzerne), the resolution's prime sponsor, described her previous work on the Luzerne County Child Advocacy Board. She stated that it was "heartbreaking" to learn how children have been abused. She said there were 40,720 sustained cases of child abuse in Pennsylvania in 2023. "The importance of recognizing April's Child Abuse Prevention Month goes beyond citing statistics, it's acknowledging the individuals and the organizations that work tirelessly to prevent child abuse from happening," she said.



Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO140 - Ensuring the Right to Free Speech at our Public Colleges

Sponsor

Rep. Joseph D'Orsie (R)

Summary

Prohibits public institutions of higher education from utilizing "bias response teams," or "bias reporting systems" and assessing unreasonably high security fees for guest speakers on campus. Creates a private cause-of-action for those aggrieved by a violation of provisions.

Intro Date

12/03/2024

Last Action

04/17/2025 H - Introduced HB1271

HCO1391 - Dual-Language Immersion Programs for K-12 Students

Sponsor

Rep. Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz (D)

Summary

Requires schools to implement dual-language immersion programs from kindergarten through grade 12, with school districts choosing the foreign language that best reflects the demographics in their communities.

Intro Date

02/03/2025

Last Action

04/22/2025 H - Introduced HB1288

HCO1818 - Combatting Sexual Violence on College Campuses

Sponsor

Rep. Amen Brown (D)

Summary

Aims to prevent campus sexual violence and support survivors across Pennsylvania by introducing confidential resource advisors, campus climate surveys, annual sexual violence trainings and an amnesty policy.

Intro Date

03/12/2025

Last Action

04/22/2025 H - Introduced HB1279

HCO1997 - Enhancing Teacher Certification Flexibility

Sponsor

Rep. Marc S. Anderson (R)

Summary

Alters previous and current models utilizing two overlapping teaching certification categories, K-8 or 6-12.

Intro Date

04/03/2025

Last Action

04/17/2025 H - Introduced HB1265

HCO2064 - Removing Barriers to High School Graduation

Sponsor

Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D)

Summary

Creates a program that would allocate grants to schools to be used solely for services addressing the overall needs, including mental health, of students to prevent school dropouts and establishes an account in the Treasury Department to fund the program with unencumbered and undistributed revenue from the Department of Education, as well as donations and interest.

Intro Date

04/15/2025

Last Action

04/22/2025 H - Introduced HB1283

HCO2075 - A Resolution Designating May 6, 2025, as "AKA Day at the Capitol" in Pennsylvania

Sponsor

Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)

Summary

Designates May 6, 2025, as AKA Day at the Capitol in Pennsylvania in recognition of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Intro Date

04/16/2025

Last Action

04/17/2025 H - Introduced HR198

HCO2085 - Veterans' service experience for CTE certification

Sponsor

Rep. Brian Munroe (D)

Summary

Allows veterans' service experience in a specific occupational area to count toward the credits necessary for a CTE Instructional 1 certification.

Intro Date

04/17/2025

Last Action

04/17/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2089 - Helping Local Broadcasters by Keeping Sports Coverage Fair (former HB 30)

Sponsor

Rep. James B. Struzzi (R)

Summary

Aims to allow visiting teams and their local broadcasters in high school athletic competitions the same rights to broadcast, stream and provide telegraphic play-by-play accounts as the home team.

Intro Date

04/21/2025

Last Action

04/21/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2100 - Updating the Civics Education Graduation Requirement

Sponsor

Rep. Lou C. Schmitt (R)

Summary

Updates the assessment of civic knowledge in schools required by law.

Intro Date

04/22/2025

Last Action

04/22/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2120 - Updated Teacher Certification Levels

Sponsor

Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)

Summary

Provides for a package of bills to reduce barriers to employment, create flexibility for employers, and expand the pool of those eligible to become professional educators.

Intro Date

04/24/2025

Last Action

04/24/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

SCO618 - Cursive Handwriting in Schools

Sponsor

Sen. Wayne Langerholc (R)

Summary

Considers requiring cursive handwriting to be taught in Pennsylvania schools.

Intro Date

01/14/2025

Last Action

04/21/2025 S - Introduced SB645

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

04/21/2025 S - Introduced SB653

SCO1017 - Honoring Pennsylvania's 2025 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Champions, All-Americans and the Pennsylvania State University's National Team Championship

Sponsor

Sen. Scott Martin (R)

Summary

Resolution to recognize the Pennsylvania State University's (PSU) Wrestling Team for earning its 13th NCAA Team Title.

Intro Date

04/22/2025

Last Action

04/22/2025 S - Cosponsor memo filed

Basic Ed Bill Actions

HB1131 - 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, providing for prohibited substances in competitive foods.

Sponsor

Rep. Natalie Mihalek (R)

Summary

(PN 1416) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, providing for prohibited substances in competitive foods. Prohibits public schools from selling or offering certain competitive foods on school grounds during a school day. Provides definitions. Effective July 1, 2027.

Intro Date

04/17/2025

Actions

04/17/2025 H - Introduced

04/21/2025 H - Referred to - House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities

HB1238 - 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, providing for restricting possession and use by students of mobile devices.

Sponsor

Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)

Summary

(PN 1389) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, providing for restricting possession and use by students of mobile devices. Prohibits students from using mobile devices during instructional time. Directs governing bodies of school entities to adopt a policy that restricts students from possessing or using mobile devices during instructional time. Provides exceptions. Directs school entities to inform parents of the policy. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

04/15/2025

Actions

04/15/2025 H - Introduced

04/17/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1246 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in grounds and buildings, providing for temperature control standards.

Sponsor

Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D)

Summary

(PN 1395) Amends the Public School Code, in grounds and buildings, providing for temperature control standards. Requires school entities to maintain a temperature-controlled setting conducive to learning, between 68 and 79 degrees Fahrenheit, and provides procedures for room relocation and inspections conducted by the Department of Environmental Protection. Requires school entities to review and implement local building and fire codes and temperature control measures. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

04/15/2025

Actions

04/15/2025 H - Introduced

04/17/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1253 - 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, further providing for definitions and for student supports; and, in school safety and security, further providing for definitions, for duties of committee, for standardized protocols and for reporting and memorandum of understanding.

Sponsor

Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D)

Summary

(PN 1399) Amends the Public School Code, in student supports, further providing for definitions and for student supports; and, in school safety and security, further providing for definitions, for duties of committee, for standardized protocols and for reporting and memorandum of understanding. Provides definitions. Requires nonpublic schools to use 1302-B forms developed by the Department of Education (PDE) and the School Safety and Security Committee to report incidents involving acts of violence or the possession of weapons on school property. Provides additional duties for the committee relating to nonpublic schools and compliant incident reporting. Outlines additional regulations relating to nonpublic schools, relating to model memoranda of understanding and protocol for law enforcement notification when an offense occurs on school property. Outlines content requirements for incident reports in nonpublic schools. Outlines duties of chief school administrators and law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over school property for nonpublic schools, including the formation of an advisory committee. Prohibits this act from limiting a nonpublic school from reporting a crime conducted by a child with a disability to the appropriate authorities. Provides penalties for nonpublic schools that fail to comply with the provisions in this section. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

04/15/2025

Actions

04/15/2025 H - Introduced

04/17/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1258 - 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, providing for personalized education program; providing for student freedom accounts; and establishing the Student Freedom Account Program.

Sponsor

Rep. Joseph D'Orsie (R)

Summary

(PN 1403) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, providing for personalized education program; providing for student freedom accounts; and adding Article XX-N to establish the Student Freedom Account Program. Does not apply sections 1511, 1511.1, except as provided in this section, and 1605 to personalized education programs. Asserts that a personalized education program shall not be considered a nonpublic school under the provisions of this act. Outlines the applicability of an affidavit of the parent or guardian or other person having legal custody of a child who will participate in a personalized education program, and lists what the affidavit must include. Provides for personalized education program site relocation. Details the number of required hours and days of instruction, courses, and course levels. Provides applicability for awarding diplomas. Requires the maintenance of a portfolio of records and materials. Mandates that the teacher or administrator who evaluates the portfolio has experience in grading in several subject areas. Defines "grading." Asserts that the evaluation shall also be based on an interview of the child and a review of the portfolio required in paragraph (1) and shall certify whether or not an appropriate education is occurring. Permits a child to participate in activities. Allows adoption of policy by the board of school directors for implementation and only applies to participation in activities and shall not conflict with any other provision. Provides for cocurricular or academic courses. Establishes applicability. Asserts that if the superintendent has a reasonable belief, at any time during the school year, that appropriate education may not be occurring in the personalized education program, the superintendent may submit a letter to the supervisor, by certified mail, return receipt requested, requiring that an evaluation be conducted per subsection (h)(2) and that an evaluator's certification stating that an appropriate education is occurring for the school year under review, be submitted to the district by the supervisor within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the certified letter. Provides definitions. Lists several definitions pertinent to the Student Freedom Account. Permits the department to contract with a private third-party administrator or multiple third-party administrators to administer the program. Requires quarterly reporting between the department and a third-party administrator. Mandates the development of an application form for the account. Asserts that only a parent or a school-age child may apply for a student freedom account for the school-age child. Accepts applications on a rolling basis. Provides for the agreement of the account, including the agreement's execution and contents of the account. Asserts that the term of the agreement is valid for one school year. Permits automatic renewal if all requirements are met. Provides for agreement termination. Requires a written explanation by the department for the use of money in the student freedom account. Provides grant deposits, amounts, and disposition of money remaining in a student freedom account. Establishes prohibitions. Provides for refunds. Asserts that money received under this article shall not constitute taxable income to the applicant. Permits audits by the Department of the Auditor General. Establishes penalties and accountability standards for a participating entity. Details reasons for barring certain participating entities. Permits appeal. Requires the resident school district of a school-age child to provide the participating entity that has admitted the school age child as an eligible student with a complete copy of the school-age child's school records immediately upon enrollment or when services in the participating entity begin, subject to 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (relating to family educational and privacy rights). Provides for legal proceedings and severability. Requires department posting on its publicly accessible website, listing what is to be posted, and requires the development of guidelines. Provides for implementation and temporary regulations. Specifies what temporary regulations are not subject to. Asserts that the Department of Education (PDE), to every extent possible, shall provide assistance as needed and requested by the department to carry out this article, and nothing in this article shall be construed to expand the authority of PDE. Declares this act shall apply to the school year that begins at least one year after the effective date of this section and to each school year thereafter, with applications accepted under this act not earlier than the March 1 that occurs immediately prior to the first school year. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

04/16/2025

Actions

04/16/2025 H - Introduced

04/17/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1265 - 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 instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of department.

Sponsor

Rep. Marc S. Anderson (R)

Summary

(PN 1408) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of department. Distinguishes certificates for early childhood, elementary/middle, middle/secondary, and specialized areas of education issued after December 31, 2027. Asserts that certificates issued in accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 49.85 shall remain valid for the term of the certificate. Declares notwithstanding paragraph (1), a teacher preparation program may permit an individual who is enrolled at the institution of higher education or in an approved alternative preparation program prior to December 31, 2025, and remains continuously enrolled, to complete the program for the grade level limitations provided under 22 Pa. Code § 49.85(b). Permits the department to issue the appropriate instructional certificate to an applicant who completes the program and meets all other certification requirements. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

04/17/2025

Actions

04/17/2025 H - Introduced

04/17/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1279 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up and providing for staff training and for enforcement and penalties; in postsecondary institution sexual harassment and sexual violence policy and online reporting system, further providing for definitions, for policy for postsecondary institution sexual harassment and sexual violence and for online reporting system, providing for sexual misconduct climate surveys, establishing the Task Force on Postsecondary Sexual Misconduct and providing for confidential resource advisors, for waivers for student victims, for data reporting requirements and for enforcement and penalties; and making editorial changes.

Sponsor

Rep. Amen Brown (D)

Summary

(PN 1451) Amends the Public School Code, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up and providing for staff training and for enforcement and penalties; in postsecondary institution sexual harassment and sexual violence policy and online reporting system, further providing for definitions, for policy for postsecondary institution sexual harassment and sexual violence and for online reporting system, providing for sexual misconduct climate surveys, establishing the Task Force on Postsecondary Sexual Misconduct and providing for confidential resource advisors, for waivers for student victims, for data reporting requirements and for enforcement and penalties; and making editorial changes. Replaces violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking with misconduct. Adds definitions for “reporting party,” “sex-based discrimination,” “sexual exploitation,” “sexual harassment,” “sexual misconduct” and “Title IX coordinator.” Replaces the enrollment requirements under the definition of “student” to be at least half-time. Requires institutions of higher education and private licensed schools to establish and implement an education program for all student and employees per local law enforcement, and institution or school’s Title IX coordinator, a local rape crisis center and domestic violence program. Adds that the program may not be on a platform where students or employees click through informational slides and must be separate from freshman and transfer student orientation. Outlines the requirements of educational programs. Provides for staff training content requirements and provides for the enforcement and penalties, including allowing the department to impose a penalty not exceeding \$150,000 on the institution of school for each violation. Adds further definitions. Requires the written policy to be trauma-informed and developed in coordination with the postsecondary institution’s Title IX coordinator and local rape crisis center and domestic violence program, as appropriate. Outlines the written policy content requirements and provides the review process. Requires the written policy to be publicly available on campus in locations where students regularly congregate and the common areas of dormitories and other student housing locations. Provides for sexual misconduct climate biennial surveys and outlines the survey requirements. Requires the survey results to be made publicly available and outlines the reporting requirements. Requires the establishment of a data repository and outlines the rules and procedures. Establishes the Task Force on Postsecondary Sexual Misconduct and outlines the membership, the terms of membership, quorum and compensation provisions. Outlines the duties of the task force, including creating the base survey, and provides the topic requirements. Requires the designation of a confidential resource advisor for postsecondary institutions, outlining the requirements. Provides for the services and training requirements for confidential resource advisors and requires them to inform students or employees on how to obtain options to report sexual misconduct, counseling services, medical and health services, campus escort services, available academic and residence life accommodations, student loan counseling, opportunities to obtain waivers, the investigative, disciplinary and Non disciplinary process to address sexual misconduct, that is not to be considered a substitute for the criminal proceedings, the legal processes carried out through Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and any limits on the ability of the confidential resource advisor to provide privacy or confidentiality to the student. Outlines the coordination of services requirements. Establishes reporting requirements. Allows for cross-examinations in a civil or criminal proceeding and outlines the conflict of interest procedures. Establishes waivers for student victims, outlining minimum requirements, confidentiality and withdrawal processes. Establishes further reporting requirements. Provides for the enforcement and penalties. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

04/22/2025

Actions

04/22/2025 H - Introduced

04/22/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1283 - An Act establishing the Integrated Student Supports Program and the Integrated Student Supports Fund; and conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

Sponsor

Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D)

Summary

(PN 1454) The Integrated Student Supports Act establishes the Integrated Student Supports Program to remove academic and nonacademic barriers to learning as a means to enhance student academic success, decrease dropout rates and increase graduation rates in public elementary and secondary schools throughout this commonwealth and the Integrated Student Supports Fund in the State Treasury; and confers powers and imposes duties on the Department of Education (PDE). Establishes legislative intent. Provides definitions. Allows PDE to provide grants under the program to public school entities for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Imposes duties on the Secretary of Education regarding program designation. Specifies what shall apply to money in the fund. Mandates each public school entity to establish and manage an advisory council that shall develop the strategic school plan for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Adds that an advisory council shall be comprised of a diverse set of public and private stakeholders. Outlines the provision of grants. Requires the third-party nonprofit organization designated by PDE to provide a report to PDE on the progress of the organization's evidence-based programming within each public school entity receiving a grant within one year of the effective date and annually no later than Oct. 1 of each subsequent year thereafter. Specifies that the report shall include outcomes for case-managed students. Mandates that the report be published annually on PDE's website. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

04/22/2025

Actions

04/22/2025 H - Introduced

04/22/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1288 - 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 foreign language.

Sponsor

Rep. Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz (D)

Summary

(PN 1469) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for foreign language. Directs the Department of Education (PDE) to develop a toolkit and curriculum guidelines for instruction on foreign languages for all public school students beginning with the 2026-2026 school year. Requires each school district to create a foreign language curriculum for grades K-12, utilizing the foreign language toolkit and curriculum guidelines developed by PDE and allowing the district to choose the foreign language that relates most to the demographics of the district for the curriculum. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

04/22/2025

Actions

04/22/2025 H - Introduced

SB645 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in terms and courses of study, further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code and providing for handwriting instruction required; and, in charter schools, further providing for provisions applicable to charter schools and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations.

Sponsor

Sen. Wayne Langerholc (R)

Summary

(PN 657) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in terms and courses of study, further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code and providing for handwriting instruction required; and, in charter schools, further providing for provisions applicable to charter schools and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations. Defines "cursive handwriting." Amends the section on subjects of instruction to include cursive handwriting. Provides discretion to the Secretary of Education regarding the teaching of subjects in a language other than English. Directs that each student receives cursive handwriting instruction to ensure that students have the ability to read and write cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro Date

04/21/2025

Actions

04/21/2025 S - Introduced

04/21/2025 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

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

04/23/2025 H - Removed from table

04/24/2025 H - Placed on HVS

04/24/2025 H - Second consideration

04/24/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Appropriations

HB1271 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for free speech in higher education.

Sponsor

Rep. Joseph D'Orsie (R)

Summary

(PN 1424) Amends the Public School Code, adding Article XX-N to provide for free speech in higher education. Provides several definitions. Prohibits a public institution of higher education from establishing, maintaining or otherwise implementing a biased reporting system. Asserts that a public institution of higher education may not investigate, threaten disciplinary action or otherwise punish a campus community member for a protected expressive activity. Requires the establishment of a student-on-student harassment policy. Prohibits excessive security fees. Provides for the act's construction. Permits remedies, awards and defense or counterclaims. Establishes limitations and immunity. Asserts that nothing in the article shall be interpreted to limit other remedies available to a current or former campus community member. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

04/17/2025

Actions

04/17/2025 H - Introduced

04/21/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1279 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up and providing for staff training and for enforcement and penalties; in postsecondary institution sexual harassment and sexual violence policy and online reporting system, further providing for definitions, for policy for postsecondary institution sexual harassment and sexual violence and for online reporting system, providing for sexual misconduct climate surveys, establishing the Task Force on Postsecondary Sexual Misconduct and providing for confidential resource advisors, for waivers for student victims, for data reporting requirements and for enforcement and penalties; and making editorial changes.

Sponsor

Rep. Amen Brown (D)

Summary

(PN 1451) Amends the Public School Code, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up and providing for staff training and for enforcement and penalties; in postsecondary institution sexual harassment and sexual violence policy and online reporting system, further providing for definitions, for policy for postsecondary institution sexual harassment and sexual violence and for online reporting system, providing for sexual misconduct climate surveys, establishing the Task Force on Postsecondary Sexual Misconduct and providing for confidential resource advisors, for waivers for student victims, for data reporting requirements and for enforcement and penalties; and making editorial changes. Replaces violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking with misconduct. Adds definitions for "reporting party," "sex-based discrimination," "sexual exploitation," "sexual harassment," "sexual misconduct" and "Title IX coordinator." Replaces the enrollment requirements under the definition of "student" to be at least half-time. Requires institutions of higher education and private licensed schools to establish and implement an education program for all student and employees per local law enforcement, and institution or school's Title IX coordinator, a local rape crisis center and domestic violence program. Adds that the program may not be on a platform where students or employees click through informational slides and must be separate from freshman and transfer student orientation. Outlines the requirements of educational programs. Provides for staff training content requirements and provides for the enforcement and penalties, including allowing the department to impose a penalty not exceeding \$150,000 on the institution of school for each violation. Adds further definitions. Requires the written policy to be trauma-informed and developed in coordination with the postsecondary institution's Title IX coordinator and local rape crisis center and domestic violence program, as appropriate. Outlines the written policy content requirements and provides the review process. Requires the written policy to be publicly available on campus in locations where students regularly congregate and the common areas of dormitories and other student housing locations. Provides for sexual misconduct climate biennial surveys and outlines the survey requirements. Requires the survey results to be made publicly available and outlines the reporting requirements. Requires the establishment of a data repository and outlines the rules and procedures. Establishes the Task Force on Postsecondary Sexual Misconduct and outlines the membership, the terms of membership, quorum and compensation provisions. Outlines the duties of the task force, including creating the base survey, and provides the topic requirements. Requires the designation of a confidential resource advisor for postsecondary institutions, outlining the requirements. Provides for the services and training requirements for confidential resource advisors and requires them to inform students or employees on how to obtain options to report sexual misconduct, counseling services, medical and health services, campus escort services, available academic and residence life accommodations, student loan counseling, opportunities to obtain waivers, the investigative, disciplinary and Non disciplinary process to address sexual misconduct, that is not to be considered a substitute for the criminal proceedings, the legal processes carried out through Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and any limits on the ability of the confidential resource advisor to provide privacy or confidentiality to the student. Outlines the coordination of services requirements. Establishes reporting requirements. Allows for cross-examinations in a civil or criminal proceeding and outlines the conflict of interest procedures. Establishes waivers for student victims, outlining minimum requirements, confidentiality and withdrawal processes. Establishes further reporting requirements. Provides for the enforcement and penalties. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

04/22/2025

Actions

04/22/2025 H - Introduced

Upcoming Events

MONDAY – 04/28/2025

1:00 PM, [House Democratic Policy](#)

Public Hearing, York County School of Technology, 2179 South Queen Street, York

Public hearing on community-based workforce centers.

In the News

[04/21/2025 - ICYMI: Shapiro Administration Visits Atlas Biotech in State College to Highlight the Governor's Proposed Investment in Pennsylvania's Innovation Economy](#)

[04/22/2025 - Shapiro Administration Celebrates Autism Awareness Month with Council Rock School District Students as Governor Shapiro Continues Working to Deliver Critical Special Education Funding](#)

[04/24/2025 - Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Seeking Student Leaders for Young Ambassadors Program](#)

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.

For subscription information, questions or more information contact PLS at mypls@mypls.com or 717-236-6984. Thank you, Deborah, Cheryl, Derek, Hattie, Sam, Grace, Aaron, Christian, Katie, Zoe, Daniel, Kyle, Nicholas, Dominic, Julia and Noah.

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