

May 23 – 29, 2025

Contents

Press Conferences.....	1
Committee News	6
Bullet.in.Points.....	7
Cosponsor Memos	7
Basic Ed Bill Actions	9
Higher Ed Bill Actions.....	12
Upcoming Events	12
In the News	13

SESSION STATUS

At 3:52 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Friday, May 30, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. for non-voting session, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 2:19 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, the Senate recessed until Monday, June 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

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

Senate

June 2-4, 9-11, 23-30
Sept. 8-10
Oct. 20-22, 27-29
Nov. 17-19
Dec. 8-9

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

Press Conferences

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

GOV. SHAPIRO VISITS PHILLY TECHNICAL SCHOOL, CELEBRATES HISTORIC INVESTMENTS

By Julia Walters, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | May 23, 2025

The governor, along with educational leaders and students, gathered at A. Philip Randolph Career and Technical High School (Randolph CTHS) in Philadelphia today to celebrate historic investments in K-12 and CTE education in the commonwealth.

Monique Braxton, deputy chief of communications, School District of Philadelphia (SDOP), opened the press conference by welcoming the governor, speakers and media. She described the history of Abe Randolph, the school's namesake, as a civil rights leader and union advocate. Braxton highlighted SDOP's commitment to ensuring student success and providing an opportunity to achieve "any dream that they decide." She then introduced Dr. Tony Watlington, recognized by the District Administration Leadership Institute (DALI) as National Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Tony Watlington, superintendent, SDOP, added a historic fact about Abe Randolph, mentioning he was involved in planning the "1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom." He added he was looking forward to celebrating SDOP, describing it as a "fantastic" school district. He praised SDOP for working to raise test scores, attendance and graduation rates while decreasing dropout rates. Dr. Watlington continued, stating he was "absolutely certain" these efforts will result in more students graduating, increasing their readiness for higher education and in their careers.

Gov. Josh Shapiro praised Randolph CTHS for "charting extraordinary courses for the future." He added Randolph CTHS is a model for other schools across the commonwealth. Gov. Shapiro made a reference to educational funding cuts totaling \$1 billion during the 2011-2012 fiscal year due to "policies coming out of Harrisburg" at the time. He commended the former governor Tom Wolf, along with Shapiro's own administration, for building up educational investments since that time to get out of "the billion-dollar hole that was left." Gov. Shapiro also mentioned the lawsuit he filed as Attorney General (AG) regarding the unconstitutionality of Pennsylvania's educational funding. He commended both Democrats and Republicans for coming together after that lawsuit to find solutions and improve the commonwealth's schools. He mentioned funding as one part of the solution and additionally mentioned "imagining a great vision" for schools and providing them with opportunities to grow as another vital part. Gov. Shapiro highlighted specific bipartisan accomplishments such as providing free breakfast for all students and expanding after-school programs. He also emphasized other advancements, such as increased funding for mental health supports and special education, funding for building repairs, expanded access to pre-kindergarten and launched a teacher stipend initiative for student teachers. He praised the latter initiative, explaining the number of teachers in Pennsylvania is growing "for the first time in years." Gov. Shapiro also mentioned "significantly increased funding" for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and vocational technical (vo-tech) schools, stating the importance of students learning in the appropriate environments. "It is important to note that we want to create opportunities and avenues of success, and there should be no wrong door for students, and each and every pathway should be met with a level of respect," Gov. Shapiro said. He mentioned his

administration has “doubled our investment in vo-tech and [career and technical education] CTE,” an investment he believes is important to give students a foundation to learn their interests and pursue their future careers.

Gov. Shapiro explained the \$2 billion in funding his administration has invested in public education funding during his tenure as governor. “That is a historic amount of funding,” he remarked. He reiterated the unconstitutionality of Pennsylvania’s education funding, describing another challenge regarding how the dollars were being allocated. Gov. Shapiro explained the adequacy formula his administration developed that allows more funding to go toward “the districts that need it most.” He highlighted how SDOP’s funding has increased by 25%, or \$390 million, as a result of the adequacy formula. Gov. Shapiro stated SDOP has used this funding to repair buildings, administer a tutoring pilot program, expand STEM and vo-tech education and implement mobile agricultural learning stations and other modern technologies. He also praised SDOP for their increase in test scores, including an 8.4% increase in Math scores and a 15% increase in English scores. Gov. Shapiro also praised SDOP for a 14% increase in graduation rates and a general decrease in truancy. He commended the teachers and staff at SDOP for contributing to students’ success, mentioning his mother’s career as a Philadelphia schoolteacher. Gov. Shapiro reiterated how the administration’s funding has positively affected all Pennsylvania schools, highlighting the 778 schools that were able to hire mental health professionals for their students and 3,000 new students enrolled in new CTE programs. Gov. Shapiro said quality education is the “foundation for opportunity” in all areas of Pennsylvania, including urban, suburban and rural communities. He expressed his desire to build upon the investments his administration has made in public education. “Now, I am mindful that as we are growing, as we are investing, there are some folks down I-95 in D.C. who are trying to take away dollars from Philadelphia and Pennsylvania schools,” he said. Gov. Shapiro reminded everyone of his commitment to protecting the state’s federal funding, mentioning his lawsuit in February against the Trump administration. “I won’t hesitate to do it again,” Gov. Shapiro said. He emphasized the significance of keeping students’ interests at the focus of their decisions on public education in the Capitol building. “This is who we fight for every single day in Pennsylvania,” Gov. Shapiro stated, regarding the students. Gov. Shapiro added it was “very special” for him to introduce a student, Samiyah Golphin, to speak on her experience at Randolph CTHS.

Samiyah Golphin, student, Randolph CTHS, described her studies at Randolph CTHS focusing on health-related technology. She mentioned her brother’s cystic fibrosis diagnosis as inspiring her to enter the medical field. Golphin explained her program has helped her develop necessary skills such as patience, compassion, critical thinking skills and good study habits. She also noted her excitement regarding Randolph CTHS’s certified nursing assistant (CNA) program, mentioning she is set to receive her certification in a few months. “This program benefits us by providing us an experience of what the medical field is really like,” she said. Golphin continued, explaining her future plans of attending Thomas Jefferson University to pursue radiologic technology. Golphin praised the support she received from her teachers, counselors, friends and family during her transition to Randolph CTHS during her 10th grade year. She stated she hopes Pennsylvania will continue to fund CTE programs so that other students can have positive experiences as well.

Arthur Steinberg, president, American Federation of Teachers Pennsylvania (AFTPA), commended SDOP and Golphin, calling Philadelphia students “the best and brightest in the commonwealth.” He continued, “It’s important that students, families and the public at large see what investments in public education look like, why these investments matter and why greater investment is needed.” He praised Philadelphia for being “a union town” and reiterated the importance of CTE programs to strengthen their working-class communities. He added that many students from Randolph CTHS will go on to acquire apprenticeships and “good union jobs.” Steinberg praised Gov. Shapiro’s investments, stating they “helped supply badly needed staff and resources in schools like this.” He urged the General Assembly to continue the “positive momentum” to ensure students’ access to quality education in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Carrie Rowe, acting secretary, Department of Education (PDE), stated at Randolph CTHS, no student ever has to wonder, “When am I ever going to need to know this?” She continued, “The answer is evident every day in what is being done here.” Dr. Rowe mentioned that whether students are learning new techniques in the construction lab or working with advanced robotics in the emergency and medical services (EMT) program, students are consistently learning valuable skills at Randolph CTHS. She noted the investments Gov. Shapiro has made in education directly funded new table saws in the construction lab as well as the robotic technology used in the EMT program. “Those items weren’t just wish list items,” Dr. Rowe emphasized. “They’re real tools, helping real students in real classrooms make the direct connection between what they’re learning in their classrooms and what they’re going to do in their future careers.” She stated that when money is allocated toward the right places, it can result in measurable change, reiterating Randolph CTHS’s 14% increase in graduation rates. “Career standards benchmarks are up, industry-based learning credentials are up and more than half of the graduates here at Randolph CTHS are going right into the workforce where their skills are going to make a difference,” Dr. Rowe said. She praised Gov. Shapiro and his administration for providing “meaningful investment in education.”

Gov. Shapiro praised Dr. Rowe for her work at PDE before opening the press conference for questions from the media.

Are you confident that your proposed education spending will survive the negotiations with the legislature?

Gov. Shapiro responded he is “confident” that his proposed funding for education will go through the divided legislature. “We’re all committed to investing in education,” he continued. “We all made a deal to do that last year, and I’m confident that we’ll be able to get it done again.”

What’s your response to the decision by the Pennsylvania State University’s (Penn State) Board of Trustees to close 19 of its satellite campuses across the state?

Gov. Shapiro said he believes in the leaders at Penn State to make the necessary tough decisions. “They know they need to right-size. They know they need to plan for the long-term future,” he explained. Gov. Shapiro stated he has “faith” in Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi and her administration to navigate those choices. He also mentioned his commitment to helping the communities of the closed campuses to “make sure they are taken care of.”

Does your administration have to approve the campus closures?

Gov. Shapiro responded, mentioning “technical oversight” from Dr. Rowe as well as Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding and others.

Is there a timeline on the closures?

Gov. Shapiro stated, “I don’t know the specific timeline, but Dr. Rowe can walk you through that process offline.”

Can you describe to us the status of mass transit funding, and have you been able to find revenue that will help the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) reinstall its 45% service reductions?

Gov. Shapiro highlighted a “fun fact” about SEPTA hiring their first female welder, who received her education from Randolph CTHS, before responding to concerns regarding mass transit. He reiterated his commitment to funding mass transit, mentioning its importance for all 67 in the commonwealth. Gov. Shapiro noted his efforts to pass his funding proposal on mass transit, mentioning its passage in the House three separate times and his disappointment with the Senate’s failure to act. “What I did was I stepped up and flexed funding, took funding from other infrastructure projects and put it into SEPTA to keep SEPTA afloat,” he explained. Gov. Shapiro stated he is currently in negotiations with the Senate on a funding package that supports SEPTA as well as road and bridge infrastructure.

Where are we on the discussions with the Senate after the House passed the [legislation](#) to legalize adult-use cannabis?

Gov. Shapiro said the House made an important move regarding adult-use cannabis legislation. He noted the significance of this, mentioning that legalization can result in regulation, taxation and expunging the records of those with minor marijuana charges. “We think that there’s an opportunity for justice, for equity and for economic opportunity here,” he emphasized. Gov. Shapiro also stated most states surrounding Pennsylvania have legalized cannabis use, with the exception of West Virginia. While the House completed an “important first step,” the governor expressed his discontent with the Senate. “I was disappointed to see the Senate basically just shelve the bill and say we’re not dealing with this,” he stated. “I think it’s anti-competitive, and for a group of people that claim to care about the economic vitality of this commonwealth, they are relegating us to second place.” He mentioned his openness to discuss other ideas revolving around legalizing adult-use cannabis. “Once it ultimately reaches my desk, they tend to look a little different than the way they started, but it’s important to get the process started,” Gov. Shapiro added.

Can you describe what the impacts of the One Big, Beautiful Bill, passed by the United States House of Representatives, will have on Pennsylvania?

Gov. Shapiro responded that the bill will have “very real and very lasting and very harmful” effects on Pennsylvania. He explained the results of the bill would kick about 310,000 Pennsylvanians off Medicaid, or about 10%. He also mentioned 140,000 Pennsylvanians would lose their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. “The third devastating impact of what they passed is that it would reduce the Medicaid funding that goes to our hospitals,” he said. Gov. Shapiro noted 25% of Pennsylvania hospitals are already at a 25% operating deficit. “They did this because they want to give a tax cut to those who are at the highest level of income earners,” Gov. Shapiro opined. He criticized “every single Republican in Pennsylvania’s delegation,” many of whom represent struggling hospitals, as they voted on the bill’s passage. He noted how “devastating” it will be for the state, as the commonwealth will not be able to “make up the billions of dollars that they’re taking away from Pennsylvania.” Gov. Shapiro expressed hope that the United States Senate will look at the “Big, Beautiful Bill” with a cautious eye, adding, “We do not think this is sound policy.”

Gov. Shapiro wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day weekend and ended the press conference.



GOV. SHAPIRO TOUTS \$50 MILLION INNOVATION INVESTMENT PROPOSAL FOR 2025-2026

By Zoe Buchmann, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | May 27, 2025

Gov. Josh Shapiro and Secretary of Community and Economic Development Rick Siger were joined by local leaders at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) today to highlight the \$50 million innovation investments outlined in the 2025-2026 budget proposal.

Kevin Washo, senior vice chancellor for external relations, Pitt, welcomed attendees to the press conference, highlighting Pennsylvania's innovative efforts. He thanked Gov. Shapiro and Sec. Siger for their work and for attending the event. He emphasized the significance of innovation for both the state and global competitiveness, noting the appropriateness of holding the event at the repurposed Ford assembly plant, now called "The Assembly." He highlighted the long-standing relationship between Pitt and the state, dating back to 1787, and underscored Pitt's role as a key institution for the state. He credited partnerships with organizations such as Wexford Science and Technology and the Allegheny Conference for the success of the building project. He explained that the facility is fully occupied, demonstrating strong demand from companies eager to be near top researchers at Pitt. Washo stated the work being done in the building is "changing lives," which aligns with Gov. Shapiro's broader vision for innovation in Pennsylvania.

Gov. Shapiro emphasized the role of research, science and innovation in Pennsylvania's future, particularly in the life sciences sector. He expressed personal confidence in the university's capabilities, highlighting both classroom achievements and research excellence. "I believe in research, I believe in science and I believe in the University of Pittsburgh," he stated. Gov. Shapiro underscored the state's commitment to becoming a national leader in life sciences, citing a strategic four-part economic development plan focused on people, planning, speed and resources. He explained that he appointed Sec. Siger as part of this initiative and noted that when he took office, Pennsylvania lacked an economic development strategy. He pointed out that his administration introduced one that targeted five key sectors: energy, robotics, manufacturing, agriculture and life sciences.

Gov. Shapiro revealed that public investment under his leadership has attracted \$5.2 billion in private capital. He called life sciences a "\$50 billion industry that already employs over 100,000 Pennsylvanians" and pointed to Pennsylvania's fourth-highest ranking in national research and development (R&D) spending and life sciences patents. He noted a shortfall in commercialization, stating, "We received only 3% of the nation's venture capital." To address this, he explained that his proposed budget includes \$50 million for innovation, \$30 million of which is earmarked specifically for life sciences. He outlined three goals for the fund: creating a clinical trial support network among research institutions, accelerating commercialization through state-matched funding and training talent to turn university research into thriving businesses. "We can make sure Pennsylvania isn't just known as the home of Jonas Salk and the polio vaccine but continue to be known as the place where the next great discovery is going to come from," he said. He stated that he has positioned Pennsylvania to become the nation's third life sciences hub, following Boston and the Bay Area. "We are beginning to see the fruits of our labor," he noted, citing national rankings that praise Pennsylvania's competitiveness, quality of life and affordability. He called on lawmakers to pass his budget on a bipartisan basis. "Right now is the time for us to double down on our investments," he said. "We have an opportunity for greatness here in this commonwealth."

Sec. Siger, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), highlighted the state's innovation agenda and the role of institutions like Pitt in driving economic development. He praised the assembly building as an example of public-private partnership and emphasized Pennsylvania's position at the intersection of biomedicine and space engineering. He outlined the administration's focus on supporting innovation as a key economic driver. He noted that strong innovation ecosystems correlate with higher gross domestic product (GDP), wage growth, lower unemployment and reduced talent outmigration. He argued that Pennsylvania has the necessary ingredients — world-class universities, active intellectual property (IP) generation and startup activity and a strong R&D base. He pointed to Gov. Shapiro's proposed \$50 million innovation investment, with \$30 million targeted at life sciences, as a strategic effort to grow this sector. He explained that the proposal aims to support collaboration between institutions and companies, match federal awards and reduce risk for startups and also seeks to leverage Pennsylvania's R&D assets across the state. He called for bipartisan support and urged attendees to advocate for the proposal with legislators. He emphasized that economic development is a collaborative effort and acknowledged the presence of key partners.

Megan Shaw, president and CEO, Pittsburgh Life Sciences, thanked Sec. Siger and Gov. Shapiro for their support of the region's human health innovation ecosystem. She described how the alliance brings together Pittsburgh's strengths in clinical research and technology to position the region as a leader in life sciences. She emphasized the growing intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and biotechnology, which she says is transforming human health innovation globally. She stated that Pittsburgh is at the forefront of this transformation, combining strong R&D and clinical capabilities with leadership in health care specialties such as oncology, ophthalmology, transplantation and critical care. She noted that the region also leads in AI, computer science, cybernetics and robotics. She added that global companies like Bayer, Smith & Nephew, and Thermo Fisher have placed R&D, manufacturing and distribution hubs in Pittsburgh. She highlighted local firms like Abridge, recognized as one of the world's most innovative companies, and Krystal Biotech, which manufactures the first FDA-approved redo single-gene therapy locally. She argued that, despite these assets, more must be done to translate innovation into economic growth. She stated that other states have invested aggressively

in building business-friendly environments for life sciences. She called for bipartisan support to make Pennsylvania more competitive for startups and growth in the human health innovation sector. She said that the proposed budget is a down payment on a major economic opportunity. She added that it supports commercialization, job creation and broader access to health care, including in rural areas. She stated that Pittsburgh is poised to become a global hub for human health innovation, and smart policy investments today will secure long-term leadership and impact.

Dr. Rory Cooper, assistant vice chancellor, Research for STEM-Health Sciences Collaborations, Pitt, thanked Gov. Shapiro and the audience for their work and attendance at the press conference. He said he chose Pitt because of the impactful work happening at the medical center, the School of Medicine and across the university. He explained that his team develops assistive technologies that have transformed lives and are now standard in every power wheelchair worldwide, providing mobility to millions. He added that they also improved wheelchair ergonomics, including push rims that he uses himself, which have helped reduce rotator cuff injuries and carpal tunnel syndrome from 80% to 20% in five years. He continued that they have developed cushions to prevent pressure injuries used around the globe and recently introduced fully submersible wheelchairs for splash pads and water parks, currently available in San Antonio. He highlighted Pennsylvania's leadership in assistive technology, noting that one of the largest wheelchair manufacturers is based in the northeastern part of the state. He credited institutions including Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, Pennsylvania State University, University of Pennsylvania and Temple as forming the strongest academic ecosystem for assistive tech in the world. He emphasized the need to better leverage this strength commercially so that startups form and stay in Pennsylvania. He committed to contributing further to the initiative and to generating more patents with his team.

Sara Innamorato, Allegheny County Executive, highlighted the importance of investing in life sciences locally and praised Gov. Shapiro and Sec. Siger for their partnership in economic development across Allegheny County. She described the region as resilient and in the midst of transformation. She emphasized that the life sciences and innovation economy are central to Pittsburgh's economic future and expressed support for state-level investment in science and technology. She noted that for the first time in decades, Allegheny County is prioritizing economic development in its capital budget. She stated that her administration is launching the county's second-ever comprehensive plan to identify growth opportunities for sectors like life sciences, focusing on site development, infrastructure and connectivity, as well as on housing and community development. She added that the planning process will align with the city and state to support coordinated growth in the innovation sector. She also addressed how this planning will guide decisions around land use, talent development and equitable investment. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that public investments generate shared prosperity, particularly in communities historically excluded from growth. She underscored Pittsburgh's track record in scientific innovation and its potential to lead in the convergence of AI, life sciences, biotechnology and data analytics. She also acknowledged the life sciences sector's growing commitment to sustainability, including eco-friendly manufacturing and biodegradable medical devices. She reaffirmed that southwestern Pennsylvania has the assets, institutions and talent to become a global hub for life sciences and human health innovation. She thanked Gov. Shapiro and partners for their ongoing commitment to investing in Allegheny County's growth.

Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) expressed his appreciation to Gov. Shapiro for continuing to build out the state's economic development strategy. He recognized his focus on making Pennsylvania competitive across various sectors and described the current proposal as another key step in that long-term plan. He reflected on last year's efforts to implement the state's innovation program and noted that while Philadelphia made early progress, southwestern Pennsylvania is positioned to catch up. He emphasized that ongoing investments, including the proposed \$30 million for life sciences and \$20 million in general innovation funding, are critical for regional success. He also pointed out the importance of the recurring nature of these investments, highlighting their role in sustaining long-term growth rather than providing short-term gains. He noted the uncertainty around federal support for research and development but contrasted that with the strengths and momentum in the Pittsburgh region. Sen. Costa pointed to assets like integrated health care systems, top-tier universities and a growing AI corridor as reasons for optimism. He emphasized the opportunity to retain students and talent in the region by fostering a strong local innovation economy. He reiterated his support for the proposal and pledged to prioritize it in Harrisburg. He confirmed that at least 23 votes were secured and emphasized the need for bipartisan cooperation. He described the initiative as a regional opportunity that will benefit not just Allegheny County, but also surrounding counties like Beaver, Butler and Westmoreland. He thanked Gov. Shapiro for bringing the conversation to Pittsburgh.

Rep. La'Tasha Mayes (D-Allegheny) welcomed Gov. Shapiro to the 24th Legislative District and acknowledged her connection to both Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University. She highlighted her own educational path as an example of the transformative impact of higher education in the Pittsburgh region. She emphasized the importance of economic development for cities, regions and local communities, noting that the life sciences and biomedical sectors will bring high-tech, high-paying jobs to the area. She linked the proposed investment to improved public health outcomes, particularly in maternal health, which she identified as a personal priority and an area of focus for the Shapiro administration. She pointed to the assembly as a model for how Pittsburgh can repurpose former industrial spaces into innovation hubs. She also expressed a vision for using local talent, especially among young people in her community, to build a future workforce in science, technology, engineering and math. She underscored the urgency of securing the proposed \$50 million in state funding and noted her role on the House Appropriations Committee as relevant to that goal. She closed by thanking her legislative colleagues and Gov. Shapiro for their commitment to collaborative investment in the region.

Gov. Shapiro reflected on a recent visit to a barbershop in the Hill District with Rep. Mayes, noting her role in conducting that event. He acknowledged the critical roles of Sen. Costa and Rep. Mayes in advancing the investments highlighted during the program. He emphasized that their leadership and votes in the state legislature were essential to the state's economic development efforts, given Sen. Costa's position as Senate Democratic Leader and Rep. Mayes' role in a narrowly divided House. He also pointed to the strong collaboration between local and state government leaders, singling out Innamorato's coordination with state officials as a notable example. He underscored the alignment among local government, higher education institutions and the private sector as a distinctive strength of the Pittsburgh region. He encouraged continued momentum, expressing both pride in what has been achieved and ambition for further progress.

The governor opened the press conference to questions from the media.

Are you confident that this year's budget will pass, given the divided legislature?

Gov. Shapiro noted that common sense had guided the previous two state budgets, which included major investments in public safety, education and economic development. He stated that his current focus remains on those same priorities and expressed confidence in reaching a similar outcome. He emphasized that achieving progress would require compromise from all parties involved, including himself, the Republican-led Senate and the Democrat-led House. He reiterated that through compromise, the legislature can make meaningful progress.

Why is it important to invest in the life sciences sector in Pennsylvania?

Gov. Shapiro answered that Pennsylvania is not fully capitalizing on patents developed locally, which are often commercialized in places like Boston or the Bay Area. He asserted that the state needs to retain commercialization by building an ecosystem where innovation can be developed and launched locally. He pointed to assembly and university-private sector partnerships as key to this effort. He also noted that continued investment is critical to keeping or attracting commercial activity tied to homegrown research. He added that the return on investment in life sciences is particularly strong. He said the sector supports over 100,000 jobs with high wages and called it a profitable part of the state's economy.

How do you view the Trump administration's attack on Harvard versus your state?

Gov. Shapiro expressed concern over the federal administration's attacks on higher education, describing it as problematic rather than collaborative. He emphasized his commitment to defending Pennsylvania's universities, noting that he has legally challenged the administration to protect funding for the state. He stated he maintains regular communication with both public and private university leaders and intends to continue supporting these institutions.

What is your reaction to the recent development regarding the U.S. Steel and Nippon Steel deal?

Gov. Shapiro acknowledged mixed reactions to the U.S. Steel and Nippon Steel deal announced 18 months ago but emphasized the necessity of protecting jobs in the Mon Valley and promoting steel industry growth in Pennsylvania. He described his active engagement with local labor leaders, former presidents, company representatives and congressional members to improve the deal for the state and ensure worker protections. He highlighted the federal review process through the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) as critical, noting that former president Joe Biden initially blocked the deal but President Donald Trump later approved it. He expressed cautious optimism about the deal's progress, underscored ongoing work needed to finalize the agreement and stressed the importance of collaboration between public and private leaders in advancing economic development.



Committee News

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

No committee news this week.

Bullet.in.Points

IRRC: ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission announced the approval of the following regulations:

- Environmental Quality Board # 7-586: Blast Site Clarification for Noncoal Mining Operations (amends 25 Pa. Code § 77.564)
- State Board of Medicine # 16A-4955: Physician Assistants (amends 49 Pa. Code Chapter 18)
- State Board of Physical Therapy # 16A-6522: Early Exam and CE for Clinical Instruction (amends 49 Pa. Code §§ 40.1, 40.14, 40.15, 40.61, 40.63, 40.67, 40.163, 40.164, and 40.192)
- State Board of Pharmacy # 16A-5433: Pharmacy Technician Registration (amends 49 Pa. Code Chapter 27)
- State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers # 16A-7029: Distance Education and PAREA (amends 49 Pa. Code Chapter 36)
- Department of Labor and Industry # 12-121: Uniform Code Construction Code Supersedes Prior L&I Code Provisions (rescinds 34 Pa. Code Chapters 27, 38, 47 (Subchapter D), and 60)
- Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission # 57-334: Use of Fully Projected Future Test Year, 52 Pa. Code Chapter 53.51—53.56a (amends 52 Pa. Code §§ 53.51, 53.52, 53.53, 53.54, 53.55, and 53.56)

Additional information is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY: RULEMAKING; CONTINUING EDUCATION

The State Board of Psychology is proposing an amendment relating to continuing education. Additional information is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO2246 - Residential Hunting Licenses for Out of State College Students

Sponsor

Rep. Mandy Steele (D)

Summary

Expands hunting and furtaking opportunities for full-time out of state college students in Pennsylvania.

Intro Date

05/27/2025

Last Action

05/28/2025 H - Introduced HB1507

HCO2262 - Cosmetology and Barber Out-of-School Training Program

Sponsor

Rep. James B. Struzzi (R)

Summary

Establishes the pilot programs that allow cosmetology and barber students to complete portions of their Career and Technical Education (CTE) training as a permanent feature of Pennsylvania's CTE offerings.

Intro Date

05/28/2025

Last Action

05/28/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2271 - CTE Administrative Director Modernization**Sponsor**

Rep. Bryan Cutler (R)

Summary

Allows educators with a superintendent's letter of eligibility to be employed as CTE directors if they meet specific requirements, eliminates arbitrary time-based requirements by prohibiting the Department of Education from imposing restrictions regarding the amount of time or percentage of assignment related to supervising CTE programs and allows emergency permit experience to count toward fulfilling the professional experience requirement.

Intro Date

05/29/2025

Last Action

05/29/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

SCO1123 - Designating May 29, 2025, as "College and Career Savings Day"**Sponsor**

Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R)

Summary

Resolution designating May 29, 2025 (5/29), as "College and Career Savings Day" in Pennsylvania.

Intro Date

05/27/2025

Last Action

05/27/2025 S - Cosponsor memo filed

SCO1124 - Resolution Directing the Joint State Government Commission to Conduct a Study of Interstate Medical Licensure Compacts

Sponsor

Sen. Michele Brooks (R)

Summary

Resolution to direct the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of interstate medical licensure compacts.

Intro Date

05/27/2025

Last Action

05/27/2025 S - Cosponsor memo filed

SCO1126 - Continuing Education Hours for Cosmetology Professionals

Sponsor

Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R)

Summary

Provides Continuing Education (CE) hours for professionals licensed under the Pennsylvania Board of Cosmetology.

Intro Date

05/28/2025

Last Action

05/28/2025 S - Cosponsor memo filed

Basic Ed Bill Actions

HB460 - 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 child abuse recognition and reporting training; and, in terms and courses of study, providing for child abuse awareness and prevention.

Sponsor

Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D)

Summary

(PN 444) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for child abuse recognition and reporting training; and, in terms and courses of study, providing for child abuse awareness and prevention. Requires school entities to develop age-appropriate child abuse awareness and prevention educational materials and resources for students in kindergarten through 12th grade starting in the 2026-2027 school year. Asserts that these curriculums be modeled after a curriculum developed between the Department of Education (PDE) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) and then distributed to all public school entities and non-public school entities upon request. Directs the curriculum provided by PDE and DHS to be posted on publicly accessible websites. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

02/04/2025

Actions

02/03/2025 H - Introduced

02/04/2025 H - Referred to - House Children and Youth

05/29/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/03/2025, 10:00 AM - Public Hearing (House Children and Youth), Room 60, East Wing

HB564 - An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for mental health crisis response; and imposing duties on the Department of Human Services.

Sponsor

Rep. Tarah Probst (D)

Summary

(PN 568) Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), adding a chapter to provide for mental health crisis response; and imposing duties on the Department of Human Services (DHS). Provides definitions. Directs DHS to implement a campaign to promote awareness and encourage the appropriate use of the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline and provide information about suicide prevention. Requires DHS to consult with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), 988 crisis call centers within the commonwealth, suicide prevention advocacy groups, mental health crisis counselors and other individuals with lived experience of mental health or substance use crises on the campaign. Outlines specified materials and resources to be used for the administration of this campaign and provides design and advertisement guidelines for posters. Requires DHS to complete and submit a report with specified information to the chairmen and minority chairmen of the House Human Services Committee and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee within 180 days of the effective date of this subsection as well as an updated report with the specified information within one year of the initial report submission date. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

02/12/2025

Actions

02/11/2025 H - Introduced

02/12/2025 H - Referred to - House Human Services

05/29/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/04/2025, 9:15 AM - Voting Meeting (House Human Services), Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

HB1505 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in early learning programs, further providing for definitions.

Sponsor

Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D)

Summary

(PN 1760) Amends the Public School Code, in early learning programs, further providing for definitions. Adds an intermediate unit to the definition of "eligible provider." Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

05/28/2025

Actions

05/27/2025 H - Introduced

05/28/2025 H - Referred to - House Children and Youth

SB799 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in charter schools, further providing for funding for charter schools.

Sponsor

Sen. Lisa M. Boscola (D)

Summary

(PN 848) Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for funding for charter schools. Adds in addition other clause (2), if the school district or intermediate unit of a student offers a cyber charter school and the student enrolls in a cyber charter school not affiliated with the district or unit, the expenditure to the nonaffiliated cyber charter school is limited to the highest amount an affiliated cyber charter school would have received. Makes technical adjustments. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

05/28/2025

Actions

05/28/2025 S - Introduced

05/28/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

Higher Ed Bill Actions

HB1507 - An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in hunting and furtaking licenses, further providing for resident license and fee exemptions.

Sponsor

Rep. Mandy Steele (D)

Summary

(PN 1762) Amends Title 34 (Game), in hunting and furtaking licenses, further providing for resident license and fee exemptions. Establishes that a college student who attends a college or university located within the state is eligible for a resident hunting license if the student has applied to an issuing agent or the commission, provides a valid college identification card and pays the license fee. Adds that a college student may be eligible for license and fee exemptions for no more than four consecutive years. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

05/28/2025

Actions

05/28/2025 H - Introduced

05/28/2025 H - Referred to - House Game and Fisheries

05/28/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/03/2025, 9:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Game and Fisheries), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

Upcoming Events

MONDAY – 06/02/2025

10:00 AM, [House Education](#)

Voting Meeting, Room 60, East Wing

To consider: [HR 169](#)

10:30 AM, [Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure](#)

Voting Meeting, Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

To consider the nominations of Darryl A. Lawrence to the Office of Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate and Stephen M. DeFrank to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission; and [SB 583](#), [SB 604](#), [SB 719](#) and [SB 748](#)

12:00 PM, High School Democrats of Pennsylvania

Press Conference, Location TBA

The High School Democrats of PA are hosting our first ever in-person capitol day. High School Democrats members from around the state will gather in Harrisburg on the 2nd for meetings with legislators, capitol tours, lunch, and a press conference

TUESDAY – 06/03/2025

10:00 AM, [House Children & Youth](#)

Public Hearing, Room 60, East Wing

Public hearing on [HB 460](#).

WEDNESDAY – 06/04/2025

10:00 AM, [House Children & Youth](#)

Voting Meeting, Room 60, East Wing

To consider: [HB 928](#)

WEDNESDAY – 7/09/2025

TBA, State Board of Education

Board Meeting, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg

In the News

[05/23/2025 - Mastriano Denounces Antisemitic Murder, Calls for Holocaust Education](#)

[05/23/2025 - WATCH: 2025 National Teacher of the Year Ashlie Crosson is the First Pennsylvanian to Receive the Honor — and Her Students Say: 'It's No Surprise to Us'](#)

[05/23/2025 - AG Sunday Calls on Congress to Pass Legislation to Fund PSAs, Outreach Campaigns Aimed at Steering Children away from Drug Use](#)

[05/27/2025 - PASSHE Universities Graduate 21,000 Students, Bolstering the Workforce and Filling In-Demand Jobs](#)

[05/27/2025 - What Educators, Legislators, and Local Leaders Are Saying About Governor Shapiro's Historic K-12 Education Investments and the Real Results They're Leading to for Students](#)

[05/27/2025 - Commonwealth Charter Academy Recognized for Creative, Engaging Educational Video Content](#)

[05/28/2025 - PDE: Pennsylvania Recognizes 15 Postsecondary Institutions for Efforts to Support Student Mental Health and Prevent Suicide](#)

[05/29/2025 - Shapiro Administration Announces 33 PA High Schools Earn Governor's Civic Engagement Awards for Helping About 5,000 Eligible Students Register to Vote](#)

[05/29/2025 - Cutting Funding to School Mental Health Services Threatens Essential Support for Pennsylvania's Children](#)

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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