

Education Recap



May 30 – June 5, 2025

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SESSION STATUS

At 3:36 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Monday, June 9, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 12:44 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, the Senate recessed until Monday, June 9, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

June 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 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.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

DEMOCRATS FIGHT FEDERAL MEDICARE AND MEDICAID CUTS

By Zoe Buchmann, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | June 2, 2025

The Senate and House Democratic Caucuses met on the Main Capitol Steps today to respond to Medicaid cuts in the federal “Big Beautiful Bill.”

Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) criticized recent federal legislation passed by the U.S. Congress, referring to it as President Donald Trump’s “unconscionable” bill for its impact on Pennsylvanians. He argued that the bill would lead to catastrophic cuts to Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) and other essential programs, disproportionately affecting low-income residents, especially in counties like Allegheny. He emphasized that over 45,000 people in Allegheny could lose Medicaid, and more than 90,000 could lose SNAP benefits. He accused Republican colleagues of ignoring the consequences, “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil,” and called on them to join Democrats in rejecting these cuts. He urged bipartisan support for “care, not cuts,” labeling the proposed reductions “reckless, shameful and harmful” to Pennsylvania’s quality of life.

Marc Stier, executive director, Pennsylvania Policy Center, condemned a recently passed reconciliation bill from the U.S. House of Representatives, calling it a “huge, ugly” piece of legislation that he urged the Senate to block. He stated the bill would strip \$1.1 trillion from Medicaid and SNAP over 10 years in order to fund tax cuts for those earning over \$500,000 annually, a move he labeled unconscionable. Stier explained that these safety net programs support millions of Pennsylvanians, often temporarily, during periods of hardship or opportunity. He emphasized the broader economic impact, noting Medicaid’s role in sustaining hospitals and doctors statewide and SNAP’s contribution to food access. He warned that hundreds of thousands in Pennsylvania could lose health care and food assistance if the bill moves forward. He credited public activism across the state for preventing even harsher cuts in earlier drafts. Stier praised the leadership of Pennsylvania’s Democratic legislators and pledged to continue the fight alongside them.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Johanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia) denounced what she described as a “big, bad bill” recently passed by the U.S. House, warning that the legislation could strip health care access from hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians, including children, expectant mothers, seniors, disabled individuals and nursing home residents. “People will die,” she stated, citing insights from health care professionals like Rep. Arvind Venkat (D-Philadelphia). Speaker McClinton emphasized the broader impact, noting that Medicaid reimbursements help sustain health care infrastructure across the state, from community clinics to skilled nursing facilities. She urged federal officials, including both U.S. senators and Pennsylvania’s congressional delegation, to reject the bill. “We need more care, not less,” she stressed, calling on leaders to take immediate action to protect vulnerable populations and uphold basic human dignity.

Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta (D-Philadelphia) condemned the federal bill, calling it a “bad bullshit bill” that would inflict real harm, including death, on vulnerable Americans. He argued that government should exist to make people’s lives better, not worse, and criticized the bill for slashing Medicaid and SNAP while benefiting the wealthy. Rep. Kenyatta argued that Republicans lack the courage to oppose the bill, prioritizing political self-interest and donor influence over their constituents’ needs. He emphasized that the cuts would devastate rural health care and food access and urged bipartisan action to stop the bill. He called on officials without the courage to do their jobs to step aside for those willing to fight for working families and the most vulnerable.

Sen. Art Haywood (D-Chester) shared the stories of people who are vulnerable to Medicare and Medicaid cuts and expressed his concerns for people across Pennsylvania, especially in rural and urban communities, who fear hospital closures due to Medicaid cuts. He emphasized that these were not just numbers, but lives, and that there was “nothing beautiful” about what was at stake.

Rep. Venkat spoke against the proposed legislation, warning that it would result in preventable deaths. He emphasized that his first professional oath was to “do no harm” as a doctor, and he continued to treat thousands of Pennsylvanians in the emergency room (ER). Drawing from experience, he explained that before Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, 20% of his patients lacked insurance and often sought care too late for effective treatment. He shared a story from his residency about a woman who came to the ER with back pain. Expecting a minor injury, he was shocked to discover that she had late-stage breast cancer that had spread to her bones. She also had a life-threatening blood condition. When he asked why she had delayed care, she explained that she had fallen into medical debt and lacked coverage, fearing the cost for herself and her family. Her condition, he said, could have been treatable if caught earlier. Rep. Venkat used this story to illustrate the very real consequences of losing health care access and to highlight the “deep cynicism” he saw in congressional Republicans pushing the bill.

Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia) thanked Rep. Venkat for raising the issue of the “sick tax” and emphasized its importance in the broader conversation around the proposed legislation, which he repeatedly referred to as the “big ugly bill.” He criticized the bill for stripping away essential services, health care, education, food assistance and jobs, while imposing harmful burdens on vulnerable communities. He stressed that these deeply damaging aspects were often overlooked due to the bill’s overwhelming breadth of harm. He made it clear that state legislators from Pennsylvania were not acting alone but were part of a nationwide coalition of lawmakers speaking out against the bill’s impact. He argued that no state in the country, including Pennsylvania, had the financial capacity to make up for the federal funding cuts proposed in the legislation. He underscored the irony of this happening in the wealthiest country in the history of the world, stating that instead of working to expand health care, education, food access and living-wage jobs, leaders in Congress were choosing to make life harder for everyday Americans. He expressed frustration that, rather than discussing policies to improve people’s lives, they were forced to fight legislation that would severely damage communities. He reminded the audience of the positive progress Pennsylvania had made under former governor Tom Wolf, particularly through full implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which had expanded coverage to millions. That progress, he warned, was now under threat if the bill continued to advance in the U.S. Senate.

Sen. Costa thanked Sen. Hughes for his remarks and emphasized the broad and far-reaching consequences of the legislation under debate. He highlighted how the bill would negatively impact a wide range of communities and services, including SNAP food assistance, farmers’ market voucher programs for seniors, rural health care, nursing home residents and education at large. He stressed that these effects extended beyond individual recipients, affecting small businesses, farmers, hospitals and the broader economy of rural areas. He called on Republican colleagues in both the U.S. House and Senate to join them in opposing the bill, urging them to listen to their constituents and recognize the devastating consequences the legislation would cause. He acknowledged the unified stance of the 23-member Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus, reaffirming their collective commitment to opposing the legislation. He warned that Pennsylvania would not have the financial capacity to absorb the losses caused by federal funding cuts, and as a result, essential programs, such as education, child care, behavioral health and housing, would be severely underfunded. He urged members of the public to speak out, stand with them and help stop the bill, stressing the need to protect the quality of life for people across Pennsylvania.



LEGISLATORS, ADVOCACY GROUPS CELEBRATE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS, SUPPORT THEIR EXPANSION

By Julia Walters, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | June 4, 2025

Legislators, as well as various afterschool advocacy groups, gathered in the Main Capitol Rotunda today to support funding for afterschool programs and encouraged their expansion in the current fiscal budget.

Contrell Armor, director, Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool Youth Development Network (PSAYDN), opened the press conference and stated the mission of PSAYDN is to “promote high-quality, sustainable out-of-school-time programs and other youth development projects.” He mentioned today was their Advocacy Day when they partnered with over 100 students and 60 other provider groups to support afterschool programs to keep children engaged and safe. Armor mentioned the Building Opportunity through Out-of-School Time (BOOST) program and how it granted \$11.5 million for afterschool programs across the state. He commended Pennsylvania for being “one of 26 states across the country that has dedicated funding in its state line item for out-of-school-time.” Armor stated that afterschool programs can be transformative for students, offering them a productive and safe space to complete schoolwork, receive tutoring and build social skills. He noted how afterschool programs often improve truancy for regular school hours and improve grades due to the extra help received. Armor additionally mentioned that afterschool programs can foster mentorship relationships with educators and allow students the opportunity to confide in trusted, safe adults. He continued that students work on projects that help them develop real work experience and skills. “This goes far, far, far beyond the regular school day,” Armor stated.

Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-Northumberland), chairman, Senate Education Committee, stated, “Afterschool and summer learning programs are not just helpful, they are essential.” She added they provide “safe and enriching spaces” for students to grow academically, emotionally and socially. Sen. Culver also noted that for rural areas, afterschool programs are beneficial for students who otherwise do not get as much access to other opportunities. “Afterschool programs foster real-world skills, teamwork, leadership [and] critical thinking. These are the same qualities our businesses and communities are looking for,” she stated. Sen. Culver also highlighted that they are helpful for parents who can have “peace of mind” while finishing their workday that their children are in a safe environment. She commended afterschool programs for reducing juvenile crime and lowering dropout rates overall, as well as giving students positive role models in their afterschool educators. “Every hour spent in a structured, nurturing environment is an hour invested in a stronger, safer Pennsylvania,” Sen. Culver emphasized.

Sen. Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia) commended Lt. Gov. Austin Davis for his visit to the Frankfort Boys and Girls Club in Philadelphia and for announcing the \$11.5 million line item for afterschool programs. “That was a statement, a commitment, a promise to our young people that they matter,” she said. Sen. Tartaglione mentioned afterschool programs give students more structure during their day with trusted adults who can act as a guide. “It builds confidence, resilience and emotional strength,” she stated. “It helps with mental health in ways that schools alone can’t always provide.” Sen. Tartaglione also praised afterschool programs for improving graduation rates and giving children “a path forward.” She continued, “That’s how we strengthen neighborhoods. That’s how we support our workforce. That’s how we reduce violence before it starts.”

Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D-Philadelphia), co-chair, Afterschool Caucus, questioned students sitting on the Capitol steps behind her, asking how many of them had a trusted adult to speak with, “someone you really look up to,” present at their various afterschool programs. “I think that is amazing. That is a huge gift to all of you,” she continued after most students’ hands went up. Rep. Fiedler commended teachers and other staff members who dedicate time after their workday to spend a few extra hours with students and for making a “meaningful difference.” She mentioned visiting several schools across the state and learning about many different afterschool programs that exist. “We’ve seen the value of afterschool programs, and we’ve seen the amazing dedication and creativity of the people who run these programs on the ground,” she praised. Rep. Fiedler mentioned these programs help students develop new skills and provide safe, supervised spaces to spend their time. She also noted the monetary benefit of afterschool programs, stating, “For every \$1 invested in out-of-school-time programs in Pennsylvania, there is a more than \$6 positive return on investment.” She expressed hope for the \$21.5 million proposal for afterschool programs in the current fiscal budget, adding that 88% of parents in the commonwealth support funding for these programs. “They’re critical to all of your lives, they’re critical to our commonwealth and to our economy,” she finished.

Nathan Brant, CEO, Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCAs (PSAYS), stated Pennsylvania has more YMCAs than any other state in the country. “Everyone has a Y story, whether it was learning to swim or attending summer camp, volunteering with a mentoring program,” he said. Brant commended the Shapiro administration for their \$11.5 million funding for afterschool programs, mentioning PSAYS has been able to expand their afterschool and summer programs for children. “This funding means that we can reach more than 15,000 at-risk kids,” he continued. Brant noted afterschool programs aren’t just to “fill time” at the end of a school day. “They spark learning, provide structure and give kids the support they need when they’re most vulnerable.” He stated the hours after school are when children are at the greatest risk of either being involved in crime or being victims of crime. “It’s a tough window for working parents and a dangerous one for kids without a place to go,” Brant continued. He supported the additional \$10 million proposal for afterschool programs and praised Gov. Josh Shapiro for his investment in students. “This is the time to build on that success, not

pull back,” Brant said. “Every student in Pennsylvania, no matter where they live, no matter how much money their family makes or what challenges they’re facing — they deserve a safe, supportive place to grow and learn.”

Vicky Dong, senior, Academy at Palumbo, expressed her excitement at being the recipient of the 2025 Afterschool Youth Impact Award. “Each program has provided me with a community of mentors, lifelong friends and countless opportunities to expand beyond my comfort zone as a scholar, athlete and advocate for my community,” she said. Dong described experiences working on life science projects, going on hiking trips and “gaining confidence in unfamiliar environments.” She commended afterschool programs for providing “experiences that support positive outcomes and youth social, emotional and physical wellness.”

Cameron Jones, youth speaker, Youth Enrichment Services (YES), described a difficult time in his life where he received a 1.7 grade point average (GPA). “This number has been labeled on me because of environmental issues that were completely outside of my control,” he said. “A slew of shelter jumping, mental illness, quarantine and online schooling has set me on a course to fall into inevitability.” Jones stated he completed a graduation alternative program that allows him to create his own path, where traditional classes and schooling failed him. “I discovered other levels of involvement that allowed me to learn in ways a typical education could not,” he explained. Jones stated he has learned about various social issues, such as the “school-to-prison pipeline that plagues underprivileged communities” and the concept of restorative justice. Jones stated that by investing in afterschool programs, “you’re investing in our tomorrow.”

Ty’wann Martin, middle school leader, Allegheny Youth Development (AYD), mentioned his experience with AYD, a non-profit organization, as a young student and praised the program for its growth throughout the years. “Our main goal is to help the community,” he explained. “We try to give back to the community as much as possible.” Martin stated that one of AYD’s goals is to help students “find a future” and noted the organization helped him find his own path. “I’ve been working for them for three years,” he said. “I recently went back to school for business management, and they helped me move up in a leadership position.” Martin thanked AYD for their involvement in his life.

Shannon Reynolds, parent, commended AYD for their commitment to students and for helping her family. She described her experience as a single mother working long hours. Reynolds stated AYD has been a “blessing” as they feed their students and provide transportation back home. She also stated her children have independent education programs (IEPs) that mentors at AYD have worked “one-on-one” with. Reynolds thanked AYD for helping her family and for their dedication to their students.

Ralph Rodriguez, councilman, Harrisburg City Council, quoted rapper Tupac Shakur, saying, “If it ain’t no hope for the youth, then the truth is, it ain’t no hope for the future.” He noted that if Pennsylvania continues to invest in afterschool programs for children, it’s an investment in the state’s future. He described his experience with an educator who had a pivotal role in his life. “Having those leaders in your life is so crucial, so important to turn it around,” Rodriguez stated. He mentioned the Leadership Academy, an afterschool program at the Steelton-Highspire School District in Harrisburg, stating it “teaches life skills in a digestible format for our youth with immaculate metrics.” He mentioned teaching students skills such as culinary skills, carpentry, podcast production, music and many others. Rodriguez also noted they bring in guest speakers to provide information on topics such as credit and home ownership, as well as anger management and effective decision-making. “The Leadership Academy mitigates opioid use and gun violence by offering our youth an alternative program unique to each region,” he continued. Rodriguez also said the Leadership Academy helps students get certain certifications, such as window installation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and emergency medical technician (EMT) training. He continued, going over the various accolades of the Leadership Academy and emphasizing its positive impact on students and families.

Steven Shuleski, principal, Steelton-Highspire Jr./Sr. High School, commended the Leadership Academy for their work with Steelton-Highspire students. He praised the group for “offering not only emotional support, but also the positive reinforcement that many of our high-risk students desperately need.” He continued, “I believe we’re on the verge of something special, a cultural shift.” He mentioned the skills the Leadership Academy provides students are “essential,” not just transformative. “They’re giving our students the tools they need to succeed, not just academically, but in life,” Shuleski said. He described his experience with students he stated were previously shy, but after becoming involved with the Leadership Academy, they are talkative and engaging when discussing their experiences. “On behalf of everyone at Steelton-Highspire School District, I want to say thank you. Thank you for everything that you do for our kids,” Shuleski finished.

Rep. Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) stated, “We know what happens when kids have access to structured, supportive environments after the school day ends.” He mentioned homework help, stronger study habits, engaged learning and student safety. “They’re not just add-ons in education — they’re essential parts of it,” Rep. Heffley said. He praised his county’s Schools & Homes in Education (SHINE) Afterschool Program for supporting nearly 650 students, most from low-income households. “It connects families, schools and communities to make sure no student fails or falls through the cracks,” he said. “It works.” Rep. Heffley noted that 100% of students involved in SHINE proceeded to the next grade level. He stated that when government invests in the right programs, positive outcomes come through. “As legislators, we have the responsibility to ensure that these programs are funded and supported and expanded,” Rep. Heffley emphasized.

Kathryn Vargas, member, Pennsylvania School Age Child Care Alliance, ended the press conference by reading through Gov. Shapiro's official proclamation dedicating June 4, 2025, as Afterschool Advocacy Day.



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Kathryn Vargas, member, Pennsylvania School Age Child Care Alliance, ended the press conference by reading through Gov. Shapiro’s official proclamation dedicating June 4, 2025, as Afterschool Advocacy Day.



Committee News

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

[House Education](#)

06/02/2025, 10:00 a.m., Room 60, East Wing

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider a resolution and a bill.

[HR 169](#) - (PN 1242) Resolution designating the month of September 2025 as "Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Month" in Pennsylvania. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Peter Schweyer (D-Lehigh) stated that he will try to do a better job of timely considering resolutions by advancing resolutions where there is broad agreement.

[HB 1500](#) - (PN 1795) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for Cyber Charter School Funding and Policy Council and further providing for advertising and sponsorships; in pupils and attendance, further providing for exceptional children and education and training; in charter schools, further providing for definitions, for funding for cyber charter schools, for powers and duties of department and for assessment and evaluation, providing for fund balance limits, further providing for cyber charter school requirements and prohibitions, providing for cyber charter school fund balance accountability, further providing for establishment of cyber charter school, for cyber charter school application, for enrollment and notification, for enrollee wellness checks and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations and providing for cyber charter school moratorium; and, in reimbursements by commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for extraordinary special education program expenses. Establishes the Cyber Charter School Funding and Policy Council, providing for powers and duties. Requires the council to transmit recommendations no later than April 1, 2026. Provides for council members. Requires each public school entity to report to the Department of Education the entity’s total expenditures for paid media advertisements and sponsorships of public events. Provides for special education children and training under pupils and attendance. Provides that cyber charter schools shall receive the statewide cyber charter school tuition rate of \$8,000, provides calculations for non-special education students. Further providing for cyber charter school requirements and prohibitions. Provides for cyber charter school fund balance accountability. Requires each cyber charter school to submit a statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances for the fiscal year. Further provides for the establishment of cyber charter school, for cyber charter school application, for enrollment and notification, including a proof of residency, for enrollee wellness checks and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations. Allows for the department to require proof of compliance by a cyber charter school to ensure the well-being of the enrolled student in a cyber charter school and verify participation in the education program. Provides that beginning with the 2025-2026 school year through the 2029-2030 school year, the department may not review or act on any application for the establishment of a new cyber charter school. Further provides that no less than 1% of the special education appropriation may be distributed to school districts and charter schools for extraordinary special education program expenses under reimbursements

by commonwealth and between school districts. Provides for a cap on money distributed to a school district or a charter school. Effective immediately. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Minority Chairman Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) provided an overview of the process HB 1500 underwent to be filed. He stated that the first informational hearing on the topic was on April 25. He added that although a cosponsor memo was filed promising that the text would be available on May 29, the text was not available until late in the afternoon on May 30. He criticized the bill for not adequately addressing the needs of cyber and hybrid model students, highlighting the importance of student input and the potential negative impacts on rural and urban schools. He urged for a compromise and expressed concern over the expedited timeline for the bill's discussion due to budget considerations.

"Many of these students have deliberately chosen, whether it be for mental health, public safety or ease of access to alternative content. They have chosen to pursue this remedy. I believe strongly that they deserve a better outcome than what this proposal is," he said.

Rep. Mary Isaacson (D-Philadelphia), prime sponsor of the bill, apologized on behalf of the Legislative Data Processing Center (LDPC). She emphasized the urgency was due to the budget season. She noted that there has been a widespread request for cyber charter reform from school districts. She highlighted the governor's budget address proposal for starting funding and urged the committee to consider testimony from statewide hearings to meet the June 30 budget deadline.

Rep. Barb Gleim (R-Cumberland) criticized HB 1500 for its attempts to limit or eliminate cyber charter schools in Pennsylvania, arguing that the proposed \$8,000 funding cap would force students into district cyber programs, ignoring parental choice. She emphasized the right of parents to choose their children's educational path. She proposed creating a work group to revise the school funding formula so that it is fair for all students, something she said the Fair Funding Commission failed to achieve.

Rep. Roman Kozak (R-Beaver) noted he is a former cyber charter teacher. He criticized the funding proposals of the bill, highlighting the lack of clarity and equity in the proposed \$8,000 per student. He pointed out that Philadelphia spends \$23,000 per student. "I think there is room for reform here, but it's very frustrating to hear those numbers and not really give any financial backing to it," he said. He emphasized the importance of considering the needs of the 60,000 students in cyber schools and called for reform that supports educational equity and adequately funds cyber education.

Rep. Paul Friel (D-Chester) expressed support for the proposed bill, emphasizing the need for oversight and parity in funding between cyber charter schools and traditional public schools. He referenced a report showing a \$618 million fund balance in cyber charters and argued for treating cyber charters the same as other public schools in terms of financial oversight.

Rep. Joe D'Orsie (R-York) criticized the bill for unfairly targeting cyber charter schools with restrictions and a funding cut to \$8,000 per pupil, arguing it was a power and money grab rather than an effort to level the playing field. He urged a "no" vote on the bill.

Rep. Marc Anderson (R-York) criticized the No Child Left Behind Act for lowering standards and the impact of COVID-19 on championing remote education. He argued against HB 1500 for unfairly targeting cyber charter schools by proposing inadequate funding. He emphasized the need for fair assessment across all educational platforms and criticized the legislative process for rushing the bill.

Rep. Milou Mackenzie (R-Lehigh) shared her experiences as a homebound instructor in the 1970s and emphasized the importance of not interrupting children's education. She criticized HB 1500 for devaluing cyber charter students and called for comprehensive education reform, highlighting the discrepancy in funding between cyber charter students and those in traditional schools.

Rep. Napoleon Nelson (D-Montgomery) highlighted the constitutional underfunding of Pennsylvania's school systems, as evidenced by a Commonwealth Court decision on February 7, 2023. He specified that the bill in question aims to address the financial drain from public education to private industries within virtual learning, not to eliminate cyber charter schools. Rep. Nelson mentioned a \$6-billion shortfall in public education funding and advocated for accountability and resource allocation to ensure the sustainability of the public education system.

Rep. Brian Rasel (R-Westmoreland) expressed his belief that allowing state dollars to follow students instead of institutions would solve most existing problems but opposed the current bill for not addressing this issue.

Rep. Regina Young (D-Philadelphia) expressed frustration with the ongoing discussions about equitable and fair education legislation. She reiterated that 487 out of 500 school districts support the bill. She emphasized the importance of focusing on the greater good for all children in the commonwealth and urged her colleagues to ensure their actions align with their public statements for progress in education.

Rep. Jim Prokopiak (D-Berks) emphasized the importance of accountability in the context of the bill, highlighting the lack of discussion and accountability in cyber charter schools compared to public schools. He stressed the need for accountability towards both taxpayers and children's education and expressed his support for the bill with a "yes" vote.

Rep. Isaacson emphasized the importance of accountability and the proper use of public funds in education. She highlighted the issue of fund balances held by private institutions without accountability to taxpayers or school districts and advocated for legislation to ensure parity in oversight between school districts and private charter schools.

Chairman Cutler criticized the proposed bill, highlighting that the court decision found that the commonwealth's funds were unevenly distributed, but they avoided specifying a per-student funding amount. He argued that the bill's fixed cyber rate of \$8,000 is not based on actual expenses and is significantly lower than the state average. Chairman Cutler expressed his frustration with the bill and the broader discussion on school funding, advocating for accountability and a focus on educational outcomes rather than shutting down cyber schools based on performance. He urged a "no" vote on the bill.

Chairman Schwyer emphasized that the discussions and ideas surrounding the legislation were not new and had been previously debated by the General Assembly. He highlighted the consistent urging from the auditor general for action and stressed the overwhelming demand from school districts, taxpayers, parents and families for significant action. He urged members to support the bill.



House Appropriations Committee

06/02/2025, 1:45 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[HB 242](#) - (PN 1720) Amends the Tax Reform Code, in tax credits relating to beginning farmers, further providing for the scope of the article to omit those who rent agricultural assets, for the definition of "department" to mean the Department of Agriculture and removing the definition of "lease," for beginning farmer management tax credit and for approval of tax credit as determined by the department. Provides that an owner of an agricultural asset or beginning farmer is eligible for the tax credit under Article III for the sale of agricultural assets, eligible for an allocation of a tax credit equal to 5% of the lesser of the sale price or the fair market value of the agricultural asset, up to a maximum of \$50,000 per farm or agricultural asset. Removes language requiring verification that the farming conducted by an applicant for the tax credit is a significant source of income for the owner of an agricultural asset. Requires the applicant to meet the definition of a beginning farmer as well as verification of federal gross income from agricultural production or experience in the agriculture industry or related field within the taxable year. Removes language providing for the termination of a rental agreement. Asserts that the tax credit may not be refunded. Provides that the owner of an agricultural asset or beginning farmer must first apply the tax credit against the tax liability for the year in which the credit is first approved, however, any excess may be carried over to succeeding taxable years, though shall be reduced by the amount that was used as a credit during the next taxable year, for no more than three taxable years following the year in which the credit was first approved. Asserts that an owner of an agricultural asset or beginning farmer is not entitled to carry back, sell or assign all or any portion of an unused tax credit. Requires the department to establish a public awareness campaign to provide information to the general public. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 161, 1485). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 960](#) - (PN 1727) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in commercial drivers, further providing for disqualification. Asserts that a person subject to lifetime disqualification of commercial driving privileges may apply to the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for reinstatement. Directs that the person voluntarily complete an appropriate rehabilitation program approved by the Department of Health (DOH) if the lifetime disqualification was a result of a violation of Section 3802 or Section 1547. Mandates the person to attend and successfully complete an approved driver improvement course administered by a driver improvement school authorized under section 1549 (relating to establishment of schools), regardless of the underlying reason for the lifetime disqualification. Directs the person to pay a restoration fee. Prevents a person who has committed certain criminal violations from being eligible for reinstatement of commercial driving privileges. Prohibits reinstatement of a commercial driver's license (CDL) for a person convicted of fleeing the scene of an accident that resulted in the death of a person or an offense that caused the death of a person as a result of a motor vehicle accident through the negligent operation of any motor vehicle. Permits the submission of an electronic application and revises proof requirements. Stipulates that PennDOT shall have up to 30 days to review and issue an approval or denial of an

application submitted under this subsection. Further stipulates that upon completion, PennDOT shall provide written notice by first-class mail, or electronically as permitted by PennDOT, of the approval or denial of an application submitted under this subsection. Permits PennDOT to promulgate rules and regulations for implementation. Asserts that PennDOT's authority to adopt temporary regulations under subparagraph (l) shall expire three years after the effective date of this paragraph, and regulations adopted after this period shall be promulgated as provided by law. Adds a requirement that any individual applying for reinstatement of commercial driving privileges after being subjected to lifetime disqualification of commercial driving privileges must provide PennDOT proof of citizenship or lawful, permanent residency. Effective in 30 months. (Prior PN: 1034, 1460). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1058](#) - (PN 1728) Amends the State Lottery Law, in State Lottery, further providing for statement of purpose and for powers and duties of secretary. Adds that the lottery shall be managed in such a fashion as to generate maximum profits from lottery activities to sustain or increase the funding levels for the programs that benefit commonwealth seniors each fiscal year. Repeals subparagraphs referring to lottery profit margins. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1149, 1488). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1072](#) - (PN 1327) Amends the Taxpayer Relief Act, in senior citizens property tax and rent rebate assistance, further providing for definitions and for filing and payment of claim. Amends the State Lottery Law, in State Lottery, further providing for disposition of funds. Increases the exception on the gross amount of loss of time insurance benefits, life insurance benefits and proceeds to \$10,000 under the definition of "income." Adds that the department shall pay the claim for property tax or rent rebate. Removes a provision in the Taxpayer Relief Act that provided for payments from the State Lottery Fund. Adds a provision to the State Lottery Law stating that the Department of Revenue shall, as soon as practicable, pay from the State Lottery Fund a claim that is filed and approved by the secretary. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1248). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1420](#) - (PN 1644) An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General. Appropriates \$7,252,000 from the revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General to provide for the operation of the office for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1421](#) - (PN 1645) The State-related University Nonpreferred Appropriation Act of 2025 provides for funding for certain state-related universities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, for costs basis, for frequency of payments and for recordkeeping requirements; imposes a duty on the Auditor General; providing for financial statements, for the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund and for restrictions; and makes appropriations. Provides definitions. Directs that payments made to a state-related university on account of an appropriation under the act must be made on the basis of costs during the current fiscal year. Provides for monthly payments. Directs that estimated costs be submitted to the Secretary of Education, the General Assembly and the State Treasurer not later than 30 days prior to the date on which the payment is to be made. Provides for the duties of state-related universities. Provides duties of the Auditor General. Directs state-related universities to provide full, complete and accurate information as may be required by the Department of Education or the chairperson or minority chairperson of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Directs state-related universities to present and report required financial statements. Appropriates the money of the restricted account within the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund. Provides restrictions, limitations and conditions on the use of appropriations. Provides \$242,096,000 to Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) for general support. Provides \$35,670,000 to Penn State for the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Provides \$151,507,00 to the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) for general support. Provides \$3,791,000 to Pitt for rural education outreach. Provides \$158,206,000 to Temple University for general support. Provides \$21,890,000 to Lincoln University for general support. Effective immediately. The bill was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Minority Chairman Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana) stated that Republicans have not had discussions or negotiations on the items addressed in the bill.



House Children and Youth Committee

06/03/2025, 10:00 a.m., Room 60, East Wing

Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held an informational meeting on HB 460.

[HB 460](#) - (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.

Chairman Jeanne McNeil (D-Lehigh) stated today's hearing would focus on HB 460, aimed at requiring school districts to adopt age-appropriate curricula on child abuse.

Minority Chairman Katie Klunk (R-York) expressed her eagerness to learn more about HB 460, noting it was in the House Education Committee last session, and highlighted this as the first opportunity to examine it closely.

Abby Newman, CEO of External and Global Affairs, Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center, supported HB 460, emphasizing the need for age-appropriate child abuse prevention education in schools. She shared statistics on child sexual abuse in Pennsylvania, the role of Mission Kids in addressing these issues and the effectiveness of school-based prevention programs. She stressed the importance of using evidence-based or evidence-informed curricula delivered by experts. She highlighted the cost-effectiveness and success of the Safe and Healthy Communities program in reducing sexual abuse rates. She urged that with children having better access to knowledge, they will get the support and protection they deserve.

Robert Manzi, District Attorney of Indiana County, voiced his support for HB 460, stressing the importance of child abuse awareness and education programs for K-12 students and ongoing training for mandated reporters. He discussed his legal career, involvement in child protection efforts and the multidisciplinary approach to investigating child abuse. He highlighted the staggering statistics of child victimization. He detailed the challenges posed by internet exploitation, advocating for a trauma-informed approach to handling abuse reports. He noted the importance of an "all hands-on deck approach" so children know what abuse looks like, how to safely report it and why it is critical to make abuse stop. He emphasized how HB 460 accomplishes these objectives to prioritize child abuse awareness and assists the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (PDAA) with the identification and prosecution of these issues.

Benjamin Levi, professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Humanities, Pennsylvania State College of Medicine, shared his background as a pediatrician and philosopher with a focus on bioethics and human decision-making. He discussed the complexity of child abuse and praised the intent behind HB 1460, aimed at educating and raising awareness about the issue. He detailed his experience in developing educational interventions to address child abuse as the founding director of the Penn State Center for the Protection of Children. He noted that his program is the only evidence-based online educational intervention for mandated reporters in the U.S., tested in Maine and Pennsylvania with the National Institute of Health's (NIH) sponsorship, and recommended for Head Start programs nationwide. He emphasized the challenges of effectively implementing educational programs on child abuse and protection, noting the importance of doing it well and the need for expertise in various related fields. He expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of adding more training for mandated reporters without evidence of its impact. He called for evidence-based approaches in educating children on this topic. He highlighted the importance of improving the quality of mandated reporting. He expressed concern over the rushed timeline for implementing a statewide curriculum without proper vetting. He recommended a deliberate, evidence-based approach to addressing child abuse education and reporting.

Rep. Nancy Guentz (D-Montgomery) asked for suggestions to improve HB 460. Levi emphasized the importance of having clear goals and a focused approach when addressing sexual child abuse education in schools. He suggested that Pennsylvania needs to ensure adequate resources and staffing at Childline to handle an expected increase in abuse reports, citing increased staffing in other states.

Rep. John Schlegel (R-Lebanon) acknowledged the complexity and importance of addressing child abuse. He emphasized the need for ongoing revision and stakeholder engagement beyond HB 460. He inquired about differences in training for staff in traditional brick-and-mortar schools versus those in cyber school programs. Newman agreed with the necessity for trainers to be highly knowledgeable and emphasized that such programs should be led by specialists. She highlighted the effectiveness of evidence-based programs like those from Penn State in eliciting disclosures from children and teachers. She recognized that cyber-schooled

children do not receive the same one-on-one attention as those in traditional classroom settings. She recalled the experience of a child who was cyber-schooled and dealt with trauma that was not adequately addressed. Levi explained that all mandated reporters receive the same training, which is vetted by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure it includes essential elements, despite different programs existing for various professionals like teachers and childcare providers.

Rep. Milou Mackenzie (R-Lehigh) shared her experience as a teacher, recounting a specific incident where a teacher's intervention at a student's home resolved a case of non-sexual abuse. She highlighted the importance of sensitivity and professionalism in handling such matters. She expressed concerns about the current reporting mechanisms in schools and the potential for causing further trauma to children. Levi addressed these concerns, emphasizing the need to improve the signal-to-noise ratio in abuse reporting. He detailed the importance of distinguishing between genuine cases of abuse and other reasons for a child's behavior. Newman emphasized the need to deliver child sexual abuse prevention education through trauma-informed methods by professionals who understand the dynamics of abuse. She highlighted the role of the National Children's Alliance and its accreditation of 40 child advocacy centers in Pennsylvania. She spoke about a prevention education program developed by Penn State, costing \$25 per child. She advocated for the involvement of child advocacy professionals in delivering the education.

Chairman Klunk asked about the role of parents in educating their children about abuse. She inquired about strategies to reach and educate parents. Newman discussed the importance of a community-wide approach to combat child abuse. She detailed the training of parents to recognize signs of abuse and the appropriate actions to take. Chairman Klunk inquired about the resources available to parents in Pennsylvania to understand what is age-appropriate for children of different ages. She expressed concern about the need for parents to be better equipped with this knowledge. Newman emphasized the importance of looking to child advocacy centers, which will provide prevention education, training for children, parents and communities. Chairman Klunk appreciated local school districts for adopting measures to support parents and children without needing legislative mandates and highlighted the heavy workloads of educators. She asked about recommendations for homeschooling parents regarding child advocacy resources and if the curriculum for traditional and charter schools could be accessible to homeschoolers. Newman stated she believes homeschooled or cyber-schooled children and their parents should be able to attend community training sessions. She urged the importance of community oversight to ensure that necessary training reaches these families.

Chairman Klunk asked why second grade was chosen for children to receive certain training, questioning if it was due to a particular moment of development where children are more receptive. Newman explained that child sexual abuse can occur at any age. She emphasized the importance of early education and intervention to provide necessary help for a healthy life. Levi suggested that choosing second grade for child sexual abuse education was likely a pragmatic decision, emphasizing the importance of content, delivery and retention. He highlighted a program that uses advanced training techniques to enhance memory retention and stressed the need for longitudinal programs.

Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D-Montgomery), the bill's prime sponsor, discussed HB 460, which mandates the development of an age-appropriate Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Education Program for K-12 students in Pennsylvania schools. She explained it was inspired by Jenna Quinn's advocacy and the enactment of Jenna's Law in Texas.

Rep. Schlegel emphasized the importance of ongoing conversation, follow-up and action in education regarding the training of staff and the education of students on child abuse awareness. He suggested that HB 460 could be amended to include training and information access for homeschool parents. Rep. Daley expressed her openness to discussing HB 460 further with committee members. She highlighted the importance of including homeschool children in the proposed training for child abuse awareness and prevention.

Chairman McNeil thanked the testifiers for their comments and Rep. Daley for presenting her bill before declaring the meeting adjourned.



House Appropriations Committee

06/03/2025, 4:30 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider three bills.

[HB 1332](#) – (PN 1630) The Capital Budget Act of 2025-2026 provides for the capital budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. Appropriates a total of \$1.57 billion for public improvement projects, furniture and equipment, transportation assistance projects, redevelopment assistance projects and flood control projects. Effective immediately. The bill was **reported as amended**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

[A00882](#) by Harris, makes technical changes and increases the limitation on redevelopment assistance capital projects. The amendment was **adopted**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Minority Chairman James Struzzi (R-Indiana) said he believed the amendment is “not necessary” and cited a letter from Budget Secretary Uri Monson to provide financial numbers about the program.

Chairman Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia) voiced praise for the program’s economic impact. He said, “Many of those projects happen in many parts of the commonwealth, and many of our members enjoy looking at the groundbreaking and ribbon cuttings for those projects, and I hope that we can continue to do that with increased resources or not.”

Chairman Struzzi voiced his appreciation for the benefits of the program but reiterated his objection to the “unnecessary” amendment.

[HB 1339](#) – (PN 1637) An Act making appropriations – from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund and from Federal augmentation funds to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Makes a state appropriation of \$95,392,000 for the salaries, wages and all necessary expenses for the proper operation and administration of PUC. Makes federal appropriations of \$4,739,000 to enforce the regulations of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act, \$500,000 for Motor Carrier Safety and \$2,500,000 for the IRA - Transmission Siting Program. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A00792](#) by Harris, increases appropriations. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Chairman Struzzi asked why the increase is necessary. A committee staffer explained the changes are based on the Governor’s Budget Office Spring update numbers. Chairman Struzzi then asked what the money will be used for. The staffer replied, PUC will use it for administrative services. Chairman Harris pointed out that the Spring update numbers were provided to all House members in their offices.

[HB 1500](#) – (PN 1807) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for Cyber Charter School Funding and Policy Council and further providing for advertising and sponsorships; in pupils and attendance, further providing for exceptional children and education and training; in charter schools, further providing for definitions, for funding for cyber charter schools, for powers and duties of department and for assessment and evaluation, providing for fund balance limits, further providing for cyber charter school requirements and prohibitions, providing for cyber charter school fund balance accountability, further providing for establishment of cyber charter school, for cyber charter school application, for enrollment and notification, for enrollee wellness checks and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations and providing for cyber charter school moratorium; and, in reimbursements by commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for extraordinary special education program expenses. Establishes the Cyber Charter School Funding and Policy Council, providing for powers and duties. Requires the council to transmit recommendations no later than April 1, 2026. Provides for council members. Requires each public school entity to report to the Department of Education the entity’s total expenditures for paid media advertisements and sponsorships of public events. Provides for special education children and training under pupils and attendance. Provides that cyber charter schools shall receive the statewide cyber charter school tuition rate of \$8,000, provides calculations for non-special education students. Further providing for cyber charter school requirements and prohibitions. Provides for cyber charter school fund balance accountability. Requires each cyber charter school to submit a statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances for the fiscal year. Further provides for the establishment of cyber charter school, for cyber charter school application, for enrollment and notification, including a proof of residency, for enrollee wellness checks and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations. Allows for the department to require proof of compliance by a cyber charter school to ensure the well-being of the enrolled student in a cyber charter school and verify participation in the education program. Provides that beginning with the 2025-2026 school year through the 2029-2030 school year, the department may not review or act on any application for

the establishment of a new cyber charter school. Further provides that no less than 1% of the special education appropriation may be distributed to school districts and charter schools for extraordinary special education program expenses under reimbursements by commonwealth and between school districts. Provides for a cap on money distributed to a school district or a charter school. Makes a corrective change to refer to section 302 of the Taxpayer Relief Act, replacing section 301, in section 1725.1-A(f)(1)(ii) of the Public School Code. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1795). The bill was **reported as amended**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

[A00865](#) by Harris, provides a technical amendment. The amendment was **adopted**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Chairman Struzzi regarded the bill as “d  j   vu” and compared it to the recreational marijuana [bill](#). He criticized the bill being introduced on Friday and being “rushed through” to Tuesday to be amended in the committee to vote on tomorrow for final consideration. He believed the bill was not ready for a final vote and said the bill “needs a lot of work.” He also voiced concern with the bill, which he said, “takes reforms to an extreme that isn’t necessary at this point in time.” He also stated, “I don’t want a precedent to be set — I understand we’re in June, but rushing bills through, amending them in appropriations is not the proper process when we are dealing with a piece of legislation this impactful.”

Chairman Harris remarked that Chairman Struzzi admitted in his comments that the amendment was technical and technical amendments are voted on during third and final passage for a bill on the House floor “all the time.” Chairman Struzzi rebutted by saying, “We’re not on the floor — we’re in appropriations, and appropriations deal with the fiscal impact of the commonwealth, not the policy of the bill itself.” Chairman Harris pointed out that Chairman Struzzi regarded the amendment as technical. Chairman Struzzi affirmed that it is a technical amendment and suggested the bill be in the Education committee or on the floor.



House Appropriations Committee

06/04/2025, 11:20 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[HB 463](#) - (PN 446) Amends the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, prohibiting speculative ticketing acts or practices. Prohibits a reseller from advertising, offering for sale, contracting for the resale of a ticket or accepting full or partial consideration for the resale of a ticket unless the ticket conforms to the description as advertised, the reseller has possession or constructive possession of the ticket, or written contract to obtain the ticket or an official ticket presale or on sale for the event has occurred before the ticket being advertised, listed or offered for resale by the reseller, unless the rights holder or operator has consented in writing to the advertisement, listing or offer for resale. Adds that a secondary ticket platform may not publish an advertisement for a ticket unless an official ticket presale or on-sale for the event has occurred before the advertisement. Prohibits a secondary ticket platform from using a domain or subdomain name in the URL, the name of the exhibition or performance unless authorized, a trademark not owned by the platform, a combination of texts, images, web designs or internet website addresses that are substantially similar to those of the right holder or operator and a name substantially similar to the name specified under clauses (1) through (4). Provides the Attorney General with the authority to enforce the section. Allows for an operator, venue, right holder or primary ticket platform who suffers injury as a result of a violation to bring a private action to recover actual damages plus \$1,000 for each violation. Adds definitions. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 554](#) - (PN 1619) The Social Work Licensure Compact Act authorizes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Social Work Licensure Compact; and provides for the form of the compact. Explains the purpose and objective of the act and compact. Provides several definitions. Provides state requirements to be eligible to participate in the compact and requirements for maintaining membership in the compact. Establishes eligibility for social workers in the compact, including application and renewal requirements. Provides for the issuance of the multistate license. Establishes and explains the authority of the Interstate Compact Commission and member state licensing authorities. Provides reissuance of a multistate license by a new home state. Provides designation of home state for military families. Authorizes taking adverse actions. Establishes the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission, membership, voting and meeting requirements. Establishes the commissions’ duties and powers. Creates the executive committee, the committee membership and its duties. Requires annual reporting and keeping minutes. Provide financing for the commission. Requires the development of a data system. Authorizes the commission to promulgate reasonable rules for effective and efficient

implementation and the adoption of the rules at a special meeting. Provides oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement. Provides that the compact shall come into force on the date on which the compact statute is enacted into law in the seventh member state. Permits any member state to withdraw from the compact by enacting a statute repealing the same. Explains that nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a Member State and a non-Member State that does not conflict with the provisions of this compact. Permits the compact to be amended by member states. Provides that no amendment to this compact shall become effective and binding upon any Member State until it is enacted into the laws of all Member States. Establishes construction and severability. Provides for consistent effect and conflict with other state laws. Effective in 18 months. (Prior PN: 555). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 668](#) - (PN 1620) The Counseling Compact Legislation Act authorizes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Counseling Compact; and provides for the form of the compact. Establishes the purpose of the compact. Provides several definitions. Provides for state participation in the compact. Establishes requirements for a license to exercise the privilege to practice under the compact's terms and provisions. Creates an application process for a licensed professional counselor to file for obtaining a new home state license based on a privilege to practice. Provides home state designation for active duty military personnel or their spouses. Provides for recognition for the privilege to practice telehealth. Establishes the authority to take adverse actions. Creates the Counseling Compact Commission and provides who the commission is composed of. Provides duties and financing of commission. Mandates data system development, maintenance, operation and utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action and investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states. Requires the commission to promulgate reasonable rules to effectively and efficiently achieve the purpose of the compact. Provides for oversight, dispute resolution and enforcement. Provides for the implementation date of the compact and associated rules, withdrawal and amendment. Provides for construction and permits severability of the compact. Provides for the binding effect of the compact and other laws. Effective in 18 months. (Prior PN: 675). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 704](#) - (PN 1713) The Neurodegenerative Disease Research Program Act establishes the Neurodegenerative Disease Research Program within the Department of Health (DOH) to provide grants to eligible applicants to fund neurodegenerative disease research projects on neurodegenerative disease and related infrastructure and the Neurodegenerative Disease Research Program Fund in the State Treasury to carry out the purposes of the program; and imposes duties on DOH. Provides definitions. Redefines "institution" as an academic clinical medical center located in the commonwealth that conducts neurodegenerative disease research. Requires DOH to implement and administer the program. Directs DOH to develop an application form that must be completed and approved before an eligible applicant can receive a grant. Outlines what the application form must include. Mandates DOH to develop an application process, a grant disbursement process and a process for the general administration of the program. Provides for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee review. Requires each recipient to submit a report to DOH within 90 days after the grant period ends. Provides for the funding formula, outlining eligibility and fund distribution. Directs that indirect costs must be capped at 10% of grant funds. Appropriates all money deposited into the fund and interest and other earnings on the money in the fund to DOH on a continuing basis to award grants under the program. Permits DOH to solicit and accept funding for the program. Stipulates that an eligible institution that receives a grant under the program shall be subject to a performance review by DOH upon completion of a neurodegenerative disease research project or more often as deemed necessary by DOH. Directs DOH to issue an annual report detailing the operation of the program and fund during the preceding year, no later than Dec. 31 of the year after the effective date and each Dec. 31 thereafter. Outlines the contents that each annual report must include and specifies to whom the report shall be transmitted. Mandates DOH to post each annual report on its website. Requires DOH to adopt or promulgate rules or regulations necessary to implement and administer this act. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1437). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1333](#) - (PN 1631) An Act making appropriations from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account and from restricted revenue accounts within the General Fund to the Department of State for use by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs in support of the professional licensure boards assigned thereto. Appropriates \$73,093,000 for the operation of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Appropriates \$10,191,000 for the operation of the State Board of Medicine for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Appropriates \$2,553,000 for the operation of the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Appropriates \$474,000 for the operation of the State Board of Podiatry for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Appropriates \$1,396,000 for the support and operation of the State Athletic Commission for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1334](#) - (PN 1632) An Act making appropriations of \$75,802,000 and \$550,000 from the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide for the expenses of administering the Workers' Compensation Act, the Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act and the Office of Small Business Advocate for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1335](#) - (PN 1633) An Act making an appropriation of \$2,243,000 from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate in the Department of Community and Economic Development. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1336](#) - (PN 1634) An Act making appropriations of \$64,523,000 from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund and \$1,405,000 from the PSERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1337](#) - (PN 1635) An Act making appropriations of \$43,249,000 from the State Employees' Retirement Fund and \$4,836,000 from the SERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the State Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1338](#) - (PN 1636) An Act making appropriations of \$2,193,000 from the Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulatory Fund to the Philadelphia Parking Authority for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1420](#) - (PN 1644) An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General. Appropriates \$7,252,000 from the revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General to provide for the operation of the office for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1089](#) - (PN 1206) The Safer Sealant Act provides for restrictions on the sale and application of high-PAH sealants; establishes the Safer Sealant Fund within the State Treasury; imposes duties on the Department of Environmental Protection; authorizes certain municipal ordinances; and imposes penalties. Provides definitions. Establishes restrictions on the use of high-PAH sealants. Provides that a penalty for a violation is not to exceed \$2,500 for each violation. Authorizes municipalities to enact ordinances. Provides act construction. Permits collection of civil penalties by municipalities and for the use of penalties collected to be determined by the municipality. Requires the department to develop a model ordinance for municipalities to use. Deposits collected civil penalties into the fund. Requires the department to enforce the provisions. Permits the Environmental Quality Board to promulgate any rules or regulations necessary for the administration of this act, including the use and disbursement of money from the fund. Effective immediately. The bill was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

[HB 1340](#) - (PN 1638) The Gaming Control Appropriation Act of 2025 makes appropriations from the restricted revenue accounts within the State Gaming Fund and from the restricted revenue accounts within the Fantasy Contest Fund and Video Gaming Fund to the Attorney General, the Department of Revenue (DOR), the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Makes state appropriations of \$1,700,00 for salaries, wages and all necessary expenses of the Attorney General related to 4 Pa.C.S. Pt. II (relating to gaming), of \$8,032,000 for salaries, wages and all necessary expenses of DOR related to 4 Pa.C.S. Pt. II (relating to gaming), of \$41,857,000 for salaries, wages and all necessary expenses of PSP related to 4 Pa.C.S. Pt. II (relating to gaming) and of \$60,423,000 for salaries, wages and all necessary expenses for the proper operation and administration of PGCB. Makes state appropriations of \$280,000 for salaries, wages and all necessary expenses of PGCB related to 4 Pa.C.S. Pt. I (relating to amusements generally) and of \$418,000 for salaries, wages and all necessary expenses of DOR related to 4 Pa.C.S. Pt. I (relating to amusements generally). Makes state appropriations of \$475,000 for salaries, wages and all necessary expenses of PGCB related to 4 Pa.C.S. Pt. II (relating to gaming), of \$6,000,000 for skill games administration, of \$683,000 for salaries, wages and all necessary expenses of DOR related to 4 Pa.C.S. Pt. II (relating to gaming) and of \$9,000,000 for skill games operations. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.



Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO2289 - Career and Technical Education Testing Alternatives

Sponsor

Rep. Jill N. Cooper (R)

Summary

Allows Career and Technical Education (CTE) students to satisfy the occupational competency test requirement through attainment of an industry-based competency certification related to their program of study.

Intro Date

06/02/2025

Last Action

06/02/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2299 - College Athlete NIL Trust Accounts

Sponsor

Rep. Jesse Topper (R)

Summary

Protects student-athletes from poor financial decisions when being paid for name, image, and likeness (NIL) rights.

Intro Date

06/03/2025

Last Action

06/03/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2313 - PA Read Together Peer Tutoring Program

Sponsor

Rep. Jason Ortitay (R)

Summary

Establishes the PA Read Together Peer Tutoring Program, an innovative, evidence-based initiative aimed at improving early reading proficiency while fostering community connections and leadership development among high school students.

Intro Date

06/04/2025

Last Action

06/04/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

SCO1154 - Grow Our Own Educators in Pennsylvania**Sponsor**

Sen. Carolyn T. Comitta (D)

Summary

Establishes a "Grow Your Own" Educators program in Pennsylvania.

Intro Date

06/04/2025

Last Action

06/04/2025 S - Cosponsor memo filed

Basic Ed Bill Actions

HB180 - 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 Nonprofit School Food Program, repealing provisions relating to school lunch and breakfast reimbursement and establishing the Universal School Meal Program and the Universal School Meal Fund; and making appropriations.

Sponsor

Rep. Emily Kinkead (D)

Summary

(PN 1796) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, further providing for Nonprofit School Food Program, repealing provisions relating to school lunch and breakfast reimbursement and establishing the Universal School Meal Program and the Universal School Meal Fund; and making appropriations. Defines "school meal." Removes language allowing the Department of Education or any board of school directors to accept any gift for use in connection with any school food program. Removes language allowing schools to provide a student with alternative meals if a student owes greater than \$75 in a school year. Directs the board of school directors to provide parents or guardians of students who owe money for five or more school meals with information on resources for applying for social service assistance programs. Removes language regarding communications regarding low balances for students. Stipulates that students may not be forced to be publicly identified as having school meal debt. Prohibits penalizing a student with detention, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension for eating a school meal for which the student could not pay. Prohibits denying a student the opportunity to participate in curricular or extracurricular activities or graduation or to receive a diploma or withhold a grade report as a result of outstanding school meal debt. Prohibits the use of collection agencies to threaten or damage the credit scores of parents or guardians to recover school meal debt. Prohibits the application of interest, fees or other penalties to outstanding school meal debt. Prohibits filing legal action over school meal debt. Prohibits profiling criminal charges over school meal debt. Prohibits the reporting of a student or a student's parent or guardian to the county children and youth agency for outstanding meal debt. Prohibits the use of the nonprofit food service account to pay off student meal debt. Prohibits the refusal to provide the signature of an issuing office for a completed application for a work permit. Prohibits the refusal to provide any material request by a student, parent or guardian for the student's application for postsecondary education, training, volunteer

or military service. Removes language directing the department to provide state reimbursement to schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program. Provides definitions. Asserts that the Universal School Meal Program is established with the goal of providing two free meals each school day to each student of a school. Provides the purpose of the program. Stipulates that each school that participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program provide all enrolled students of the school a meal that meets the requirements of the program during each school day at no cost. Stipulates that students may be required to pay for additional snacks that are not included in the free lunch or breakfast. Directs the Department of Education to administer the program. Permits the department to use 3.5% of appropriated money for administrative purposes. Stipulates that each school report to the department regarding the program. Directs the department to monitor schools that receive state reimbursement. Directs each school to maximize the amount of federal reimbursement available. Directs school ineligible for the Community Eligibility Provisions to make all reasonable efforts to promote and collect household applications for students who are not categorically eligible for free or discounted meals. Directs the department to provide state reimbursement to schools equal to the sum of the difference between the federal free and paid reimbursement rates, plus the difference between the reduced-price and the paid reimbursement rates under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Stipulates that each school provide a meal in which the cost of the meal is equal to or less than the federal free reimbursement rate during any given school year, as determined annually by the United States Department of Agriculture. Establishes the Universal School Meal Fund as a non-lapsing fund in the State Treasury. Provides for uses and contributions to the fund. Stipulates that the act applies to the 2025-2026 school year and each school year thereafter. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

06/02/2025

Actions

06/02/2025 H - Introduced

06/02/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

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

Sponsor

Rep. Kerry A. Benninghoff (R)

Summary

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

Intro Date

01/22/2025

Actions

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

06/02/2025 S - Meeting Scheduled - 06/04/2025, 10:30 AM - Voting Meeting (Senate Transportation), Room 461, Main Capitol

06/04/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Transportation

06/04/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Transportation

06/04/2025 S - First consideration

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

06/03/2025 H - Discussed during public hearing - House Children and Youth

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 1831) 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, subject to available funding, 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. (Prior PN: 568)

Intro Date

02/12/2025

Actions

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

06/04/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended - House Human Services

06/04/2025 H - Reported as amended - House Human Services

06/04/2025 H - First consideration

06/04/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Rules

HB1428 - An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to retirement for school employees, further providing for definitions.

Sponsor

Rep. Joe Webster (D)

Summary

(PN 1663) Amends Title 24 (Education), in preliminary provisions relating to retirement for school employees, further providing for definitions. Redefines “government entity.” Details the applicability of the definition of “governmental entity.” Effective immediately.

Intro Date

05/07/2025

Actions

05/13/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House State Government

05/13/2025 H - Reported as committed - House State Government

05/13/2025 H - Laid on the table

06/04/2025 H - Removed from table

06/09/2025 H - Placed on HVS

HB1500 - 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, providing for Cyber Charter School Funding and Policy Council and further providing for advertising and sponsorships; in pupils and attendance, further providing for exceptional children and education and training; in charter schools, further providing for definitions, for funding for cyber charter schools, for powers and duties of department and for assessment and evaluation, providing for fund balance limits, further providing for cyber charter school requirements and prohibitions, providing for cyber charter school fund balance accountability, further providing for establishment of cyber charter school, for cyber charter school application, for enrollment and notification, for enrollee wellness checks and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations and providing for cyber charter school moratorium; and, in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for extraordinary special education program expenses.

Sponsor

Rep. Mary Isaacson (D)

Summary

(PN 1829) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for Cyber Charter School Funding and Policy Council and further providing for advertising and sponsorships; in pupils and attendance, further providing for exceptional children and education and training; in charter schools, further providing for definitions, for funding for cyber charter schools, for powers and duties of department and for assessment and evaluation, providing for fund balance limits, further providing for cyber charter school requirements and prohibitions, providing for cyber charter school fund balance accountability, further providing for establishment of cyber charter school, for cyber charter school application, for enrollment and notification, for enrollee wellness checks and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations and providing for cyber charter school moratorium; and, in reimbursements by commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for extraordinary special education program expenses. Establishes the Cyber Charter School Funding and Policy Council, providing for powers and duties. Requires the council to transmit recommendations no later than April 1, 2026. Provides for council members. Requires each public school entity to report to the Department of Education the entity's total expenditures for paid media advertisements and sponsorships of public events. Removes the provision for special education children and training under pupils and attendance. Provides that cyber charter schools shall receive the statewide cyber charter school tuition rate of \$8,000, provides calculations for non-special education students. Further providing for cyber charter school requirements and prohibitions. Provides for cyber charter school fund balance accountability. Requires each cyber charter school to submit a statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances for the fiscal year. Further provides for the establishment of cyber charter school, for cyber charter school application, for enrollment and notification, including a proof of residency, for enrollee wellness checks and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations. Allows for the department to require proof of compliance by a cyber charter school to ensure the well-being of the enrolled student in a cyber charter school and verify participation in the education program. Provides that beginning with the 2025-2026 school year through the 2029-2030 school year, the department may not review or act on any application for the establishment of a new cyber charter school. Further provides that no less than 1% of the special education appropriation may be distributed to school districts and charter schools for extraordinary special education program expenses under reimbursements by the commonwealth and between school districts. Provides for a cap on money distributed to a school district or a charter school. Makes a corrective change to refer to section 302 of the Taxpayer Relief Act, replacing section 301, in section 1725.1-A(f)(1)(ii) of the Public School Code. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1807, 1795)

Intro Date

05/30/2025

Actions

06/03/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/03/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/04/2025 H - Re-reported as amended - House Appropriations

06/04/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/04/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

HB1535 - 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 grading, classification and promotion of pupils.

Sponsor

Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)

Summary

(PN 1798) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for grading, classification and promotion of pupils. Directs the Department of Education to establish individual student performance levels aligned with the PSSA test. Permits the department to approve alternative indicators of student performance. Asserts that performance levels or alternative indicators will indicate whether a student is more than three years below proficiency in reading or more than four years below proficiency in mathematics. Provides guidelines for students who are below proficiency to be promoted to the next grade level. Stipulates that a student who continues to demonstrate inadequate performance following a retention year may not be retained for an additional year but will be provided with an individual improvement plan developed by the school entity. Permits the department to require a school entity to implement academic improvement activities for a student identified as not proficient. Permits school entities to require student participation in academic improvement activities. Provides for the establishment of an academic review committee by each school entity to hear appeals from parents or guardians. Permits the department to promulgate necessary regulations. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

06/02/2025

Actions

06/02/2025 H - Introduced

06/02/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1536 - 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, providing for career and technical administrative director certification flexibility.

Sponsor

Rep. Bryan Cutler (R)

Summary

(PN 1799) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, providing for career and technical administrative director certification flexibility. Stipulates that an educator who has been issued a superintendent's letter of eligibility may be employed as a director of career and technical education if the educator meets certain requirements. Prohibits the Department of Education from imposing a requirement based on the amount of time or percentage of the assignment related to supervising career and technical education programs. Asserts that the period of employment as a career and technical education administrative director under a valid Pennsylvania career and technical emergency permit will be counted by the department toward fulfilling the relevant professional experience requirement. Abrogates inconsistent regulations. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

06/02/2025

Actions

06/02/2025 H - Introduced

06/02/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1539 - An Act establishing the Electric School Bus Grant Program and the Electric School Bus Grant Program Fund; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

Sponsor

Rep. David Madsen (D)

Summary

(PN 1810) The Electric School Bus Grant Program Act establishes the Electric School Bus Grant Program and the Electric School Bus Grant Program Fund; and imposes duties on the Department of Education (PDE). Provides definitions. Establishes the grant program within PDE to award grants for eligible costs to eligible applicants on a competitive basis. Directs the department to establish an application process and guidelines. Permits the department to randomly audit and monitor grantees. Directs the department to develop criteria for grantees under the program. Directs the department to require periodic reporting requirements for grantees. Directs the department to develop procedures for addressing a grantee's noncompliance. Directs the department to limit the amount of a grant so as not to exceed 100% of the difference between the cost of an internal combustion engine bus and the total eligible costs for an electric school bus. Stipulates that grants received by a school district will not be included when calculating the amount to be paid to a charter school. Establishes the grant program fund within the State Treasury. Provides for sources and deposits of funds. Permits the department to use up to 8% of the money in the fund to cover direct and indirect costs. Directs the department to reserve a portion of the money in the fund to provide ongoing technical assistance to school entities. Directs the department to submit a report summarizing the progress of the program. Stipulates that the report be sent to the chairman and minority chairman of the relevant committees in the House and Senate. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

06/03/2025

Actions

06/02/2025 H - Introduced

06/03/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1565 - 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 instructions in firearm safety.

Sponsor

Rep. Jacob D. Banta (R)

Summary

No summary available yet.

Intro Date

06/05/2025

Actions

06/05/2025 H - Introduced

06/05/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1566 - 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 Cosmetology Training through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program and for Barber Training through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program.

Sponsor

Rep. James B. Struzzi (R)

Summary

No summary available yet.

Intro Date

06/05/2025

Actions

06/05/2025 H - Introduced

06/05/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

SB604 - An Act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Counseling Compact; and providing for the form of the compact.

Sponsor

Sen. Lisa M. Boscola (D)

Summary

(PN 612) The Counseling Compact Act authorizes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Counseling Compact; and provides for the form of the compact. Provides definitions. Outlines the requirements for state participation in the compact and member duties, including participating fully in the commission's data system, notifying the commission on any adverse action, implementing or utilizing procedures for considering the criminal history records of applicants, complying with the rules of the commission, requiring an applicant to obtain or retain a license in the home state, granting the privilege to practice to a licensee holding a valid unencumbered license in a member state and providing for the attendance of the state's commissioner to the Counseling Compact commission meeting. Establishes the privilege to practice of a licensee and outlines requirements. Outlines the procedure for obtaining a new home state license based on a privilege to practice. Requires active duty military personnel or their spouses to designate a Home State where the individual has a current license in good standing. Establishes compact privilege to practice telehealth and allows for adverse actions. Establishes informing and reporting requirements for adverse actions and investigations taken by a state in the compact. Establishes the Counseling Compact Commission, outlines member guidelines, provides the power and duties of the commission including establishing the fiscal year, bylaws, maintaining financial records, meeting and taking action consistent with the compact, promulgating rules, brining and prosecuting legal proceedings or actions, purchasing and maintaining insurance and bonds, borrowing, accepting or contracting for services, hiring employees, electing or appointing officers, fixing compensation, defining duties, accepting any and all appropriate donations and grants, leasing, purchasing, accepting appropriate gifts or donations, selling, conveying, mortgaging, pledging, leasing, exchanging abandoning or other disposing of real property, establishing a budget, borrowing money, appointing committees, providing and receiving information from law enforcement agencies, establishing and electing an executive committee and performing such other functions as may be necessary. Outlines the composition of the executive committee and outlines meeting requirements. Provides for financing of the commission and for qualified immunity, defense and indemnification. Requires the creation, maintenance, operation and utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system and outlines information submission requirements for member states. Allows the commission to promulgate reasonable rules and outlines the rule requirements. Provides for oversight, dispute resolution and enforcement. Allows for withdrawals and amendments to the compact. Provides for the binding effect of the compact and other laws. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

04/09/2025

Actions

05/12/2025 S - Meeting Scheduled - 05/13/2025, 10:45 AM - Voting Meeting (CANCELLED) (Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure), Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

05/30/2025 S - Meeting Scheduled - 06/03/2025, 10:30 AM - Voting Meeting (Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure), Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

06/03/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

06/03/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

06/03/2025 S - First consideration

SB816 - 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 parent educational information regarding eating disorders.

Sponsor

Sen. Steven J. Santarsiero (D)

Summary

No summary available yet.

Intro Date

06/03/2025

Actions

06/03/2025 S - Introduced

06/03/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

Higher Ed Bill Actions

HB1405 - 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 career and technical instructional certificate.

Sponsor

Rep. Brian Munroe (D)

Summary

(PN 1604) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for career and technical instructional certificate. Includes evidence that a veteran has served in the United States Armed Forces for a minimum of 8,000 hours, equivalent to four years full-time, in the occupational area to be taught, for the issuance of a career and technical instructional certificate. Defines "veteran." Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

05/05/2025

Actions

05/12/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Education

06/03/2025 H - Removed from table

06/04/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/04/2025 H - Second consideration

06/04/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Appropriations

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

06/03/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Game and Fisheries

06/03/2025 H - Reported as committed - House Game and Fisheries

06/03/2025 H - First consideration

06/03/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Rules

HB1520 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in intercollegiate athletics, further providing for definitions and providing for rights of parties, for prohibitions on institutions, for athletic associations, conferences and organizations with authority over intercollegiate sports, for NIL agreements, for athlete agents and upfront payments, for athletic program structure, for protections and right to adjudicate, for private civil action, for settlements and for severability.

Sponsor

Rep. Aerion Abney (D)

Summary

(PN 1790) Amends the Public School Code, in intercollegiate athletics, further providing for definitions and providing for rights of parties, for prohibitions on institutions, for athletic associations, conferences and organizations with authority over intercollegiate sports, for NIL agreements, for athlete agents and upfront payments, for athletic program structure, for protections and right to adjudicate, for private civil action, for settlements and for severability. Adds definitions. Establishes the rights of parties for prospective college student athletes to enter into agency contracts and secure representation and enter into NIL agreements with and receive NIL compensation directly from an institution, athletic program supporter, NIL collect and third party. Outlines prohibitions and enforcement requirements. Provides for conflicts and disclosure procedures. Adds that it does not apply to compensation received by the institution of higher education for the use of its intellectual property. Outlines the prohibitions on institutions. Outlines the prohibitions on athletic associations, conferences and organizations with authority over intercollegiate sports. Provides for right of action and the construction of the article. Establishes NIL agreement requirements, including confidentiality, royalty payment and use of trademark requirements. Provides for athlete agents and upfront payments, prohibiting repayments. Establishes that an entity created or contracted by an institution to operate or otherwise control parts of its intercollegiate athletic programs that are related to this act, all have to have the same rights, protections, prohibitions and responsibilities applicable. Provides for protections and rights to adjudicate, for private civil action and settlements. Adds that the provisions in the article are severable. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

05/30/2025

Actions

05/30/2025 H - Introduced

05/30/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

SB719 - An Act amending the act of May 26, 1947 (P.L.318, No.140), known as the CPA Law, further providing for definitions, for general powers of the board, for examination and for requirements for issuance of certificate; repealing provisions relating to practice in this Commonwealth by individuals under substantial equivalency; further providing for practice outside this Commonwealth under substantial equivalency and for practice by firms and unlicensed entities under substantial equivalency; providing for practice in this Commonwealth by individuals under automatic mobility; and further providing for licenses to practice, for licensing of firms, for grounds for discipline, for reinstatement and for unlawful acts.

Sponsor

Sen. Scott Hutchinson (R)

Summary

(PN 862) Amends the CPA Law, further providing for definitions, for general powers of the board, for examination and for requirements for issuance of certificate; repealing provisions relating to practice in this commonwealth by individuals under substantial equivalency; further providing for practice outside this commonwealth under substantial equivalency and for practice by firms and unlicensed entities under substantial equivalency; providing for practice in this commonwealth by individuals under automatic mobility; and further providing for licenses to practice, for licensing of firms, for grounds for discipline, for reinstatement and for unlawful acts. Provides definitions. Revises the general powers of the board. Permits an applicant to take each part of the examination in any order and retake a part of the examination that the applicant did not pass. Asserts that the applicant shall receive credit for each part of the examination the applicant passed if the applicant passes all parts of the examination within a rolling 30-month period beginning on the date the applicant passes one part of the examination. Specifies that if the applicant does not pass all parts within the 30-month period, credit for the earliest examination passed expires, and a new rolling 30-month period begins on the date the next passing score is released. Allows the board to extend the 30-month period if the applicant demonstrates that the failure to pass was due to circumstances beyond their control. Provides for assessing the moral character of an applicant with a criminal conviction, requiring the board to conduct an individualized assessment per 63 Pa.C.S. § 3113 (relating to consideration of criminal convictions). Revises experience requirements. Repeals section for individuals practicing in the commonwealth under substantial equivalency and replaces substantial equivalency with automatic mobility. Establishes practice in the commonwealth under automatic mobility, requiring the completion of a total of at least 150 semesters. Outlines license renewal requirements. Provides applicability. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 750)

Intro Date

05/06/2025

Actions

06/03/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended - Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

06/03/2025 S - Reported as amended - Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

06/03/2025 S - First consideration

06/04/2025 S - Second consideration

06/04/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY – 06/10/2025

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

Voting Meeting, Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

To consider: [HB 350](#)

WEDNESDAY – 7/09/2025

TBA, State Board of Education

Board Meeting, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg

In the News

[05/30/2025 - Pennsylvania College Students Compete in National Bank Case Study Competition](#)

[06/02/2025 - Abney introduces bill to strengthen NIL protections for student-athletes](#)

[06/02/2025 - L&I: Shapiro Administration Works with Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to Hire Students with Disabilities for Summer Internships at Commonwealth Agencies](#)

[06/02/2025 - DHS: Shapiro Administration Highlights Budget Proposal to Expand Pennsylvania's Child Care Workforce, Reinforces Commitment to Supporting Families and Investing in Early Education](#)

[06/02/2025 - Independent Fiscal Office \(IFO\): School District Property Tax Update, June 2025](#)

[06/02/2025 - Center for Rural Pennsylvania Hosts May Board Meeting at Corry Higher Education Council](#)

[06/02/2025 - Supporting Pennsylvania Schools: Shapiro Administration Invests \\$7.76 Million to Expand Certified Teacher Apprenticeships Across Pennsylvania](#)

[06/03/2025 - House Republicans: Topper, Stambaugh to Introduce NIL Legislation to Protect Student Athletes](#)

[06/04/2025 - Souderton Area School District Lifts Board Meeting Ban on Parents and Former Student Following ACLU-PA Lawsuit](#)

[06/04/2025 - PA House Democrats Threaten Thousands of Cyber Charter Students with New Bill](#)

[06/04/2025 - Cutler Reacts to Passage of House Bill 1500](#)

[06/04/2025 - House Children & Youth Committee unanimously approves bipartisan bill for food allergy training and medication in daycare facilities](#)

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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