

June 13 – 19, 2025

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SESSION STATUS

At 11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 20, 2025, the House met briefly in non-voting session and now stands adjourned until Monday, June 23, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 12:37 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, the Senate recessed until Monday, June 23, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

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

Press Conferences

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

No press conferences this week.

Committee News

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

House Republican Policy Committee

06/16/2025, 8:30 a.m., Room 418, Main Capitol
Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held an informational meeting on “reining in regulations to unleash Pennsylvania’s potential.”

Rep. Dallas Kephart (R-Clearfield) discussed regulatory reform and his support for the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act, emphasizing the need for accountability in regulation creation. He advocated for elected officials to vote on economically significant regulations. He stated his bill, [HB 1601](#), set the economic significance threshold at \$1 million.

Chairman David Rowe (R-Snyder) highlighted the issue of overregulation in Pennsylvania, citing the state’s ranking as the 12th most regulated and the negative impact on businesses and family-run operations. He called for streamlining regulations and modernizing codes.

Emily Greene, Pennsylvania State Director, Americans for Prosperity (AFP), criticized the proposed spending increase by Gov. Josh Shapiro and House Democrats. She asserted that it would exacerbate the state’s structural deficit. She highlighted Pennsylvania’s ranking as the 14th most regulated state and proposed adopting the REINS Act to enhance legislative oversight over significant regulations. Greene discussed the impact of regulations on health care and housing. He highlighted challenges due to occupational licensing barriers for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and the need for comprehensive land use reform. She advocated for easing practice restrictions on APRNs and eliminating single-family zoning laws to improve health care access and reduce housing costs.

Kevin Kane, director of legislative strategy, Commonwealth Foundation, highlighted the financial and economic challenges facing Pennsylvania, including its “poor” ranking in economic outlook and performance by the American Legislative Exchange Council. He emphasized the state’s overregulation, with Pennsylvania having over 164,000 regulations, making it 22% more regulated than the average state. He pointed to the negative impact of both federal and state regulations on businesses and jobs. He referenced a study that suggested reducing the regulatory burden by 36% could increase gross domestic product (GDP) by \$9.2 billion, create 180,000 jobs and increase household income by \$1,700. He stressed the importance of regulatory reform to improve the state’s economic environment and support small businesses. Kane criticized the discrepancy between Gov. Shapiro’s intentions to make Pennsylvania more competitive and the actual outcomes, highlighting losses to New York and Ohio due to bureaucratic regulatory delays.

He cited the loss of Fairlife to New York and a billion-dollar natural gas plant in Clinton County due to slow permit processes. He acknowledged some of Gov. Shapiro's efforts, like the introduction of new programs, but argued they were insufficient. He praised the Pennsylvania Senate's proposals, including the REINS Act and [SB 444](#), for their potential to significantly reform regulations. He pointed to Ohio's successful regulatory reduction program as a model, noting its positive impact on the state's economy and job creation. He highlighted the success of regulatory reduction programs in other states, such as Virginia, which resulted in a significant decrease in regulations and savings for taxpayers and businesses. He criticized Pennsylvania's current approach, emphasizing the need for comprehensive reform over solutions "that might sound good," like corporate welfare increases or new programs with catchy acronyms. He highlighted the excessive number of regulations in Pennsylvania, including the burdensome process for businesses. He expressed optimism about the Pennsylvania Senate's recognition of the issue and the committee's work towards regulatory relief.

Chairman Rowe shared an anecdote about a business owner whose wife spent over 40 hours a week on compliance. He emphasized the potential benefits of reducing regulatory burdens by 25 to 30%. He highlighted that such reductions could allow businesses to invest more time and money into their operations, noting that the costs of compliance are ultimately passed on to consumers.

Rep. David Zimmerman (R-Lancaster) discussed the challenges of regulatory compliance for businesses, highlighting the difficulty that state agencies and municipalities pose by easily adding regulations and ordinances. He called the REINS Act a potential solution but sought further suggestions. He shared the story of the Phillips family in Chester County, who, after facing regulatory hurdles in Pennsylvania, successfully established a mushroom operation in Maryland within three months. He asked for thoughts on making regulatory processes less burdensome. Greene acknowledged the recurring issue of businesses leaving Pennsylvania due to regulatory challenges, despite the state's efforts and the potential of the REINS Act to alleviate some problems. She emphasized the need for further collaborative efforts to retain businesses and support the American Dream within the state. She highlighted the political challenges of the legislative session but stressed the importance of legislative oversight over new regulations to benefit taxpayers and constituents. Kane agreed that the REINS Act is a positive beginning and highlighted [SB 462](#) as a further suggestion. He described the bill as a straightforward process for reviewing and making recommendations to the General Assembly, the governor and executive agencies. He emphasized the importance of evaluating existing regulations as a critical step in addressing regulatory issues.

Rep. Kephart criticized the influence of external groups on local projects, such as the Clean Air Council's halting of a billion-dollar investment in Renova. He argued against corporate welfare and emphasized the need for permitting reform in Pennsylvania. He stressed his support for the REINS Act and noted the challenges businesses face with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Greene discussed the effectiveness of permitting reform in states like North Carolina, which successfully passed a REINS Act bill. She highlighted North Carolina's welcoming approach to population growth and the importance of legislative oversight in permitting reform. Kane criticized Pennsylvania's permitting reform efforts, particularly the shortcomings of the speed program from last year's budget deal, arguing for a more comprehensive approach. Greene talked about the ease for taxpayer activists to contact representatives about permitting issues compared to submitting public comments to regulatory bodies, underscoring the need for increased legislative oversight. Rep. Kephart suggested focusing on hiring policy staff rather than increasing communication staff for social media activities to address policy issues more effectively.

Rep. Dane Watro (R-Schuylkill) shared his personal struggle with a local wedding venue's expansion effort. He criticized the state's inefficiency, referencing a local news segment that contrasted with the reality of unfulfilled projects and opportunities. Kane referenced the Fairlife site's movement to New York and noted the loss of approximately 300 businesses and 5,100 jobs annually due to federal regulation alone, not including state-level impacts.

Rep. Robert Leadbeter (R-Columbia) discussed the negative impact of regulations on business and economic growth, calling it "regulation without representation." He asked how the REINS Act could help restore balance between the executive and legislative branches in states with divided government. Greene described the success of the REINS Act in Kansas, which has a divided government, suggesting that Pennsylvania could become a "REINS state" within two to four years despite political challenges.

Rep. Joe D'Orsie (R-York) recalled his co-sponsorship of the REINS Act and asked about focus areas for legislators regarding the repeal of existing regulations, highlighting the loss of businesses and people to states with fewer regulatory issues. Kane referenced regulatory reduction legislation passed in Ohio and Virginia, which, in his perspective, have had good results. He explained Ohio scaled back right away, while Virginia had a more measured approach. He called Virginia's pilot program a better approach in order for the governor to "pick winners and losers with his programs." Greene discussed the housing shortage and its impact on the American dream of homeownership. She referenced Montana's legislation on multifamily housing as a successful case study to address this issue during the 2019-2020 pandemic. Rep. D'Orsie asked about the economic impacts of school choice programs, noting a trend where states with such programs are gaining population. Kane expressed support for universal school choice and criticized Pennsylvania's slow progress in educational reform. He highlighted the negative consequences of failing school systems, particularly in Philadelphia.

Rep. Barbara Gleim (R-Cumberland) criticized the current administration for using regulations to self-fund administrative departments through fines imposed on businesses by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). She questioned the barriers to support for a bill. Greene highlighted the bipartisan nature of the REINS Act and wondered why it was not talked about on the other side of the aisle. Kane suggested that the lack of support for the bill from Gov. Shapiro and House Democrats might be due to the influence of campaign donors who “benefit from a burdensome regulatory environment.” Rep. Gleim asked about the economic impact of regulations on small businesses. Kane stated he would follow up with a study on the regulatory environment in Pennsylvania and its implications for businesses.

Rep. John Schlegel (R-Lebanon) expressed appreciation for discussions on health care shortages, land use reform and the elimination of single-family use only zoning laws. He highlighted their potential benefits for Lebanon County. He discussed the challenges of increased truck traffic in his district and hoped for regulatory reforms to address these issues.

Rep. Stephenie Scialabba (R-Butler) asked about the potential consequences of overregulating the artificial intelligence (AI) industry in Pennsylvania, taking into consideration Amazon's recent \$20 billion investment in Berwick. He inquired about the expected impact of such regulations compared to other states. Kane stated that anytime a business wants to invest in the state, it is a success, but the government should not use corporate welfare to attract them here. He discussed the potential of a tax code reform, a less burdensome regulatory environment and favorable family programs like school choice. He detailed that easing regulations have had a positive economic impact, even concerning the AI industry. Greene stated she could provide her organization's resources related to Congress's inclusion of this issue in a reconciliation bill.

Rep. Marc Anderson (R-York) emphasized the importance of storytelling in addressing economic issues. He shared personal anecdotes about constituents and family members facing regulatory challenges and economic opportunities in other states. He asked for advice on simplifying policy discussions for constituents like the REINS Act. Greene stated that AFP is adept at storytelling and sharing constituents' stories, referencing polling indicating that 55% of Pennsylvanians prefer lawmakers to have more control over regulations. Kane discussed his approach to discussing policy with constituents, focusing on eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles for business owners. Greene emphasized the importance of accountability in legislative processes, encouraging attendees to co-sponsor [HB 1601](#) and express support for the REINS Act.

Rep. James Struzzi (R-Indiana) expressed concerns about the impact of the permitting process on delaying opportunities in energy, AI and data centers in Pennsylvania. He emphasized the need for regulatory reform.

Rep. Tom Jones (R-Lancaster) expressed concern about unchecked bureaucracies in Pennsylvania. He referenced the REINS Act as a positive step towards addressing these concerns, advocating for the legislature to reclaim authority from bureaucracies. Greene discussed the importance of addressing “judicial deference” in Pennsylvania. She highlighted the role of grassroots movements in restoring legislative oversight to regulations impacting the economy. She noted AFP's efforts, including an “I volunteer” petition targeting districts resistant to the REINS Act.

Rep. Tim Twardzik (R-Schuylkill) asked about the effectiveness of Gov. Shapiro's initiative to refund money if permits are not granted. Kane criticized the payback program for permits as ineffective and called for comprehensive reform to maintain competitiveness. Greene emphasized the priority of obtaining permits over refunds for business owners. Rep. Twardzik suggested introducing legislation to not only refund fees for delayed permits but also automatically grant the permit as a default to incentivize expedited processing.

Chairman Rowe highlighted the high cost of regulatory compliance in health care, stating that a quarter of every dollar earned by a local hospital is spent on compliance. He questioned the overall cost of overregulation. Greene described the regulatory compliance costs as “astounding” and expressed interest in providing a detailed analysis in the future. Kane talked about his organization's research indicating that rolling back regulation could boost economic growth. Chairman Rowe pointed out the inefficiency of current health care regulations and shared a personal anecdote about the regulatory challenges faced by small businesses. He described a small business's three-year struggle with regulatory issues due to DEP's backlog. He questioned if the backlog was due to self-inflicted problems versus staffing issues. Greene discussed the experiences of an activist with DEP's chapter 105 permitting issue who could not receive an answer on his issue. She suggested decisions on regulations should be made by the General Assembly. Kane commended a small business for enduring regulatory struggles and criticized DEP for contributing to the state's regulations. Chairman Rowe emphasized the importance of supporting small businesses and attributed population shifts to states with better business climates to regulatory environments.

Rep. Kephart asked about the possibility of the legislature writing more specific laws to limit the discretion of administrative agencies, suggesting it could reduce ambiguity in law implementation. Greene expressed hope for a bigger conversation and emphasized the need for a vote on the issue of regulatory reform. Rep. Kephart stressed the importance of regulatory reform in Pennsylvania,

highlighting the need for a regulatory environment that benefits all rather than the politically connected. He advocated for the implementation of measures such as the REINS Act to control bureaucracy.

Chairman Rowe agreed with Rep. Kephart on reducing regulatory burdens, using the quick reconstruction of I-95 as an example of effective government action. He argued that cutting red tape could result in economic benefits like the creation of 180,000 jobs, an increase in household income by \$1,700 and a \$9.2 billion rise in GDP. He noted that other states have seen economic growth and attracted Pennsylvania residents and congressional representation by reducing regulations. He emphasized that regulatory reform would foster opportunity and innovation.



House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

06/16/2025, 11:30 a.m., Room 515, Irvis Office Building

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider a bill and two resolutions.

[HR 5](#) - (PN 35) Resolution designating September 18, 2025, and September 18, 2026, as “State Grange Day” in Pennsylvania and celebrating the Pennsylvania State Grange on its 152nd and 153rd anniversaries. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HR 221](#) - (PN 1565) Resolution designating the week of June 16 through 22, 2025, as “Pollinator Week” in Pennsylvania. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 179](#) - (PN 858) The Whole Milk in Pennsylvania Schools Act authorizes the provision or sale of Pennsylvania milk in Pennsylvania schools. Provides definitions. Mandates Pennsylvania milk that is offered for sale to a Pennsylvania school be deemed to be in the stream of intrastate commerce. Permits the school board or other governing entity of a Pennsylvania school to utilize funds from state or local sources to obtain whole Pennsylvania milk or reduced-fat Pennsylvania milk to provide or sell. Directs the Secretary of Education to notify the superintendent or chief administrator of each Pennsylvania school of the provisions of the act. Directs the Attorney General to bring a civil action against the federal government or any other entity to recover funds withheld or revoked as a result of an action taken by the school board or other governing entity. Directs the secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Milk Board, to issue a report to the chairperson and minority chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the House and Senate. Provides for expiration. Effective in 30 days. The bill was **reported as committed** with Rep. Christopher Rabb (D-Philadelphia) voting in the negative.

Rep. John Lawrence (R-Chester), prime sponsor of the bill, said his legislation would provide school districts the opportunity to serve “milk produced by Pennsylvania dairy farmers that’s purchased by Pennsylvania taxpayer dollars to serve to Pennsylvania school students.” He noted the bill has previously passed from the House with bipartisan support, and it is a top priority of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.



House Children & Youth Committee

06/17/2025, 10:00 a.m., Room B-31, Main Capitol

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[HB 506](#) - (PN 1854) Amends the Human Services Code, providing for Child Care Staff Recruitment and Retention Program. Provides definitions. Establishes the Child Care Staff Recruitment and Retention Program. Asserts funds will be distributed to qualified child care providers for annual lump-sum retention and recruitment payments to qualified staff members. Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop an application for qualified child care providers and post it on their public website with additional details. Provides DHS procedure for considering applications. Outlines the fund allocation procedure. Provides conditions that apply to payments received by approved child care providers. Asserts DHS may recoup funds given to qualified child care providers if they do not comply with the provisions of this article or other federal or state provisions. Requires child care providers who receive payments under this article to provide all relevant documents and information related to an audit as directed by DHS or other federal or commonwealth agencies with details on records and recovery. Asserts DHS will annually prepare and submit a report to the majority and minority chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Allows DHS to promulgate regulations as necessary to implement the provisions of this section. Effective immediately. The bill was **reported as committed** with Republicans voting in the negative except Reps. Joe Hogan (R-Bucks) and Milou Mackenzie (R-Lehigh).

Chairman Jeanne McNeill (D-Lehigh), the bill's primary sponsor, discussed the child care crisis in Pennsylvania, noting over 3,000 unfilled child care jobs and the impact on parents' ability to work. She supported the bill, which uses funds from the governor's budget to offer recruitment and retention bonuses to licensed child care providers to help fill these positions. She asked for support for the bill.

Rep. Hogan shared his perspective as a young father and advocate for early childhood education, expressing skepticism about the effectiveness of simply providing more funding without addressing structural issues. Despite his concerns, Rep. Hogan announced his plan to introduce legislation aimed at creating a sustainable solution for the educator crisis and stated he would vote in favor of the current legislation but hoped for further discussion in the future.

Rep. Melissa Cerrato (D-Montgomery) expressed her support for the legislation, drawing from her personal experience as a former child care worker and a mother, emphasizing the importance of child care workers to the economy and advocating for increased reimbursement rates.

Rep. Mackenzie also expressed her support for HB 506, highlighting the importance of child care for working parents and the critical learning period from infancy to five years old, advocating for greater appreciation of early childhood educators.

Rep. Justin Fleming (D-Dauphin) talked about his experience as a child advocate and voiced support for the bill.

Minority Chairman Kate Klunk (R-York) expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the current child care bill in Pennsylvania, citing issues with workforce development, retention, recruitment and regulatory barriers. She announced a policy hearing with the House Republican Policy Committee to further examine these issues and stated her intention to vote no on the bill.

[HB 1505](#) - (PN 1760) Amends the Public School Code, in early learning programs, further providing for definitions. Adds an intermediate unit to the definition of "eligible provider." Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed** with Rep. Scott Barger (R-Blair) voting in the negative.

Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D-Montgomery), the bill's prime sponsor, advocated for her bill, highlighting the risk to pre-K programs due to potential changes in federal funding and the impact on 2,500 children, including nearly 600 in her county. She urged a yes vote on the bill.

[HB 1021](#) - (PN 1101) Amends Title 16 (Counties), in grounds and buildings, repealing provisions relating to room or building for juvenile offenders awaiting trial and providing for rooms or buildings for juveniles; and repealing provisions relating to special provisions for temporary county buildings and for rooms in county buildings in counties of the second class A. Requires county commissioners to provide, furnish and heat within the county a separate room(s) to be used exclusively for the containment and care of juveniles. Requires a board of managers to manage each room or building under this section, with specified members. Mandates the Department of Human Services (DHS) will adopt necessary rules and regulations regarding the composition of boards of managers. Provides guidelines on expenses, payments and appropriations for the boards of managers. Asserts that on or before November 1 of each year, the boards of managers will conduct regular announced and unannounced visits to the rooms or buildings and report their findings to DHS. Allows the county commissioners to appropriate money from public funding or issued bonds for the purposes outlined in this section. Asserts this section applies to counties of the first, second, second class A, third, fourth, fifth,

sixth, seventh and eighth classes and counties that have adopted a home rule charter, which have been authorized by DHS to manage and administer rooms or buildings for the confinement and care of juveniles. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **passed over**.

[HB 1022](#) - (PN 1102) Amends the Human Services Code, in departmental powers and duties as to licensing, further providing for refusal to issue license, revocation and notice; and imposing penalties. Asserts the Department of Human Services (DHS) will refuse to issue a license, revoke a license, impose penalties or mandate corrective actions for specified reasons, including more than three violations of a child's specific rights, a violation on the use of restraints, a violation of staff hiring or training, a violation of the requirement to provide a Department of Education (PDE)-approved school program under contract with a local public school district, with additional specifications. Asserts penalties and corrective actions may include imposing fines on a facility or mandating disciplinary procedures against a staff member responsible for the violation. Requires DHS to provide written notice by mail when refusing or revoking a license or when imposing penalties or corrective action. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **passed over**.

[HR 142](#) - (PN 1109) Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study and issue a report on the best practices and recommendations for the operation of juvenile detention centers within this commonwealth. The resolution was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Rep. Carol Kazeem (D-Delaware), the resolution's prime sponsor, presented HR 142, emphasizing its goal to ensure juvenile detention centers are safe and productive for youth through a bipartisan commission of experts.

Chairman Klunk expressed concerns about the language in the resolution, questioning the timing of the review of regulations and the proposed report, and recommended a no vote on the resolution.

[HB 1573](#) - (PN 1861) Amends the Human Services Code, in children and youth, further providing for availability of services, providing for purposes and further providing for statistics and assistance for research. Requires the department to conduct an inventory of programs and services every three years to address delinquency across all counties of the commonwealth. Provides applicability. Explains the purposes of the article. Lists prioritized objectives for a court. Requires the development of a publicly accessible database with collaboration from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and other appropriate stakeholders. Details what information the database shall include. Mandates the release of reports and details what statistics the reports will address. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Rep. Melissa Shusterman (D-Chester), the bill's prime sponsor, emphasized the bill's origin from a Juvenile Justice Task Force and its goal to ensure safety and accountability in juvenile detention facilities, outlining that the bill requires DHS to conduct an inventory of juvenile delinquency programs and services in Pennsylvania.

Chairman Klunk expressed appreciation for the legislative package on juvenile justice but voiced concerns over the bill's language and the lack of opportunity for amendments, stating her position as a no vote but remaining open to future collaboration.

Rep. Shusterman explained her strategy of dividing former [HB 1600](#) into three separate bills for easier passage and expressed her intention for further collaboration.

Rep. Hanbidge highlighted the Juvenile Justice Task Force's extensive work and the importance of proactive measures to protect children, noting that only two of its 35 recommendations have passed the House.

[HB 1576](#) - (PN 1863) Amends the Human Services Code, in children and youth, further providing for payments to counties for services to children and for review of county submissions. Repeals references to the Juvenile Act throughout the act and replaces it with 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to juvenile matters). Removes references to the "Department of Public Welfare" throughout the act. Revises payments to counties for services to children. Lists reasonable costs incurred. Establishes applicability for county money reimbursements. Revises the department's requirements for consideration in a county's budget. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Rep. Shusterman, prime sponsor of the bill, spoke on the bill's importance in treating juveniles in detention as children in need of guidance and advocated for the bill's provisions for reimbursements and appointed counsel, stressing the need for rehabilitation-focused juvenile detention centers and dignified treatment of juveniles with intellectual disabilities.

Chairman Klunk asked about the fiscal impact of a bill that includes a 50% reimbursement rate to counties through DHS, referencing previous similar legislation with a fiscal impact between \$900,000 and \$2 million. Rep. Shusterman responded that she did not have the fiscal information but would provide it later. Chairman Klunk expressed concerns about the fiscal impact on the commonwealth and counties, suggesting a study to assess financial effects and stating she would vote against the bill due to these concerns. Rep.

Shusterman stated the bill's aim to ensure juvenile detention facilities can provide necessary services, promising to provide the requested fiscal information.

[HB 1577](#) - (PN 1864) Amends the Human Services Code, in children and youth, providing for ensuring safe and humane institutional practices. Stipulates the safe and humane care of children in facilities demands that restrictive procedures, including chemical restraints, manual restraints, mechanical restraints, seclusion, exclusion, strip searches and body cavity searches, only be used as measures of last resort to protect a child from behavior that poses a serious and immediate risk of physical harm to self or others. Provides procedures and prohibitions to ensure safe and humane institutional practice. Establishes duties for the department and facilities. Requires quarterly reports and lists data content. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed** with Republicans voting in the negative except Rep. Gary Day (R-Lehigh).

Rep. Shusterman, prime sponsor of the bill, stated that the bill aims to ensure safe and humane practices for children in custody.

Chairman Klunk expressed concerns about the fiscal impact of the bill on providers and the “premature” nature of the bill due to the ongoing review of regulations.

[HB 1600](#) - (PN 1909) Amends the Human Services Code, in departmental powers and duties as to supervision, providing for Keystone STARS Program; and, in departmental powers and duties as to licensing, further providing for fees, providing for Keystone STARS Program and further providing for definition. Permits each certified child-care provider in the Keystone STARS program to denote on its STAR-level rating on its website, provide the rating to a parent or legal guardian and obtain a placard that denotes a STAR-level rating. Provides for placards from the Department of Human Services. Directs the department to issue guidance that establishes a Keystone STARS rubric. Provides definitions. Effective in 180 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A01155](#), by McNeill, updates the language of a “child care facility” and provides for a definition of the term. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Tom Mehaffie (D-Dauphin), the bill's prime sponsor, emphasized the evolution of the bill to focus on displaying child care providers' star ratings and introduced work requirements to help providers maintain high star ratings.

Rep. Jared Solomon (D-Philadelphia), a co-sponsor of the bill, discussed the importance of child care and the need for bipartisan workforce development legislation that includes the child care sector.

Chairman Klunk appreciated the bill's focus on workforce development in child care and the introduction of a “schools to work” grant.

Rep. Cerrato expressed strong support for the bill, highlighting her personal experience in child care. She criticized the financial impracticality of expecting those with advanced degrees to enter the child care workforce.



House Insurance Committee

06/17/2025, 11:30 a.m., Room B-31, Main Capitol

By Daniel Sachetta, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee to consider one bill.

[HB 1445](#) – (PN 1897) Amends Title 40 (Insurance), providing a chapter for school-based services; and, in telemedicine, further providing for insurance coverage of telemedicine. Lists General Assembly findings. Explains intent. Provides several definitions. Prohibits the exclusion of coverage for a medically necessary health care service because the health care service is provided in a school setting, whether through an explicit school setting exclusion or a general place of service exclusion. Provides permitted exclusions. Permits coordination of benefits. Provides the act's construction. Allows the department to promulgate regulations as necessary and appropriate to carry out the provisions of this chapter. Establishes penalties and administrative procedures. Provides applicability. Effective immediately. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Minority Chairman Tina Pickett (R-Bedford) stated she understood the intent of the bill, but Republicans would be voting no, noting concerns raised by stakeholders.



House Appropriations Committee

06/17/2025, 11:40 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[HB 205](#) - (PN 1868) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, further providing for determination of incompetency. Renames Section 1519(c) as recall of operating privilege and adds language to include any person who refuses or fails to comply with the requirements of this section, asserting that the recall shall be for an indefinite period until that person complies. Removes language requiring the department to suspend operating privileges. Adds a subsection to provide for vehicle lease termination on incompetency, specifying that a lessee may request early termination of a lease if the vehicle lessee's operating privilege have been recalled under the section and the license recall is effective as of the date of the lessee's request to terminate the lease to terminate the lease early and at the time of the leased vehicle's return. Asserts that a lessee seeking to terminate a lease must provide the lessor with a copy of the notice of license recall provided by the department. Stipulates that a lessee must also provide a license recall notice to the lessor prior to the grounding or return of the leased vehicle. Terminates the lease upon return of the vehicle to the lessor or other person in the manner provided by the lease, including in any amendment or lease assignment or notice. Prohibits lessors from charging a flat fee or penalty for terminating the lease prior to the scheduled maturity. Specifies that the lessor may assess other charges due and owing at early termination. Asserts that the act applies to Pennsylvania leases for motor vehicles that are executed with a billing address located in the commonwealth. Effective in 180 days. (Prior PN: 153). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 553](#) - (PN 1938) An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Susquehanna Regional Transportation Authority certain lands situate in the City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County; authorizing the transfer of an easement interest in lands for a portion of the Project 70 lands owned by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, known as Lake Winola Access, in Overfield Township, Wyoming County, to the Department of Transportation; authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to convey to Tioga County a tract of land, and to accept a tract of land from Tioga County, both tracts being located in Charleston Township, Tioga County; and authorizing the Department of General Services, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with the approval of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Governor, to grant and convey to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, solely for the use of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, a parcel in Lehigh Township, Carbon County, in exchange for a tract partly in Nesquehoning Borough and partly in Lehigh Township, Carbon County, to be conveyed to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting by and through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and added to Lehigh Gorge State Park. Describes the properties to be conveyed. Provides conveyance to be subject to certain matters. Explains prohibitions. Establishes conditions and restrictions. Authorizes the Department of General Services to grant easements. Requires the conveyance to be made by a special warranty deed to be executed by the Secretary of General Services in the name of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Provides that costs and fees incidental to the conveyance are borne by the grantee. Allows alternative disposition. Requires proceeds to be deposited to the General Fund. Details the transfer of easement interest in lands in Overfield Township, Wyoming County. Provides Project 70 restrictions. Establishes conditions and prohibitions. Provides for easements and a deed of conveyance. Adds provisions for conveyance partly in Nesquehoning Borough and partly in Lehigh Township, Carbon County, authorizing the conveyance, describing the property, specifying easements and encumbrances and providing for deeds. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 554, 1698). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 559](#) - (PN 1697) Amends the Liquor Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for license districts, license period and hearings, for issuance, transfer or extension of hotel, restaurant and club liquor licenses, for malt and brewed beverages manufacturers', distributors' and importing distributors' licenses and for malt and brewed beverages retail licenses. Redefines "previously unlicensed location." Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 563). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1282](#) - (PN 1715) The Flood Hazard Notification Act imposes a duty on municipal corporations to provide notification to property owners of changes to special flood hazard area maps of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Requires a municipal corporation to provide to each owner of the property written notification that the change has occurred, written notification of the name and contact information of the appointed floodplain administrator, written notification of the website, address, and phone number for the National Flood Insurance Program and written notification of the 90-day appeal and comment periods as well as the date on which the appeal and comment periods will terminate within receipt of notification from FEMA that indicates a change in a preliminary special flood hazard area map relating to real property used for residential, commercial, mixed-use, industrial, special purpose or agricultural purposes within the municipal corporation. Changes the time period from 90 days to 45 days of receipt of notification. Directs a county to provide each owner of the property with written notification that the change has occurred within 45 days of being informed by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency of a change in a final special flood hazard area map of FEMA and provides the disclosure content. Requires the insurance department to develop and make public a standardized template notification. Asserts that notice sent by first-class mail to the last known address of the owner, as shown on the current real estate tax assessment record, shall be deemed adequate compliance with the duty to provide notification. Provides for municipal immunity, specifying that a municipal corporation or county may not be liable for the failure of a property owner to receive or act on written notification as a result of a disruption of service or the failure to deliver the notification on the part of the U.S. Postal Service. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1450). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1404](#) - (PN 1603) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for certificates qualifying persons to teach, for standard employment application, for career and technical instructional certificate and for postbaccalaureate certification; and abrogating regulations. Revises the list of certificates for qualifying persons to teach to include second career certificates. Updates standard employment applications to include second career or career and technical second career teaching certificates in applying for employment with school districts within this commonwealth. Provides standards for the issuance of the Career and Technical Second Career Certificate. Replaces the word "intern" with "second career" throughout the act. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

On HB 205, HB 553, HB 559, HB 1282 and HB 1404, Minority Chairman Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana) stated that although Republicans may disagree from a policy standpoint, they do not see there to be a significant fiscal impact.

[HB 350](#) - (PN 1937) Amends Titles 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries), 23 (Domestic Relations) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in intestate succession, further providing for rules of succession; in administration and personal representatives, providing for liability of executor; in proceedings prior to petition to adopt, further providing for rules of succession, for hearing, for alternative procedure for relinquishment and for hearing; in support matters generally, further providing general administration of support matters, repealing provisions relating to paternity and further providing for continuing jurisdiction over support orders; in general provisions relating to children and minors, repealing provisions relating to acknowledgment and claim of paternity; in jurisdiction, further providing for bases for jurisdiction over nonresident; enacting the Uniform Parentage Act; providing for parent-child relationship for certain individuals, for voluntary acknowledgment of parentage, for genetic testing, for proceeding to adjudicate parentage, for assisted reproduction, for surrogacy agreements and for information about donors; and, in organization and jurisdiction of courts of common pleas, further providing for original jurisdiction and venue. Asserts that persons begotten before the decedent's death, including a person conceived by assisted reproduction and established to be a child of the decedent, take as if they had been born in his lifetime. Provides that if a decedent's estate is not notified of a transfer of a gamete or embryo and as a result a parent-child relationship between the decedent and the person conceived by assisted reproduction is not established, an executor is not liable to the person for a distribution of the estate of the decedent in reliance on the fact that the relationship was not established. Provides definitions. Provides for applicable law. Provides for data privacy. Provides for the establishment of a parent-child relationship. Prohibits discrimination. Directs that a parent-child relationship applies for all purposes unless parental rights are terminated. Provides for presumption of parentage. Provides for acknowledgment of parentage. Provides for the execution of an acknowledgement of parentage. Asserts that a presumed parent or alleged genetic parent may sign a denial of parentage in a record. Provides rules for acknowledgment or denial of parentage. Provides for the effect of acknowledgement or denial of parentage. Provides that a court conducting a judicial proceeding or an administrative agency conducting an administrative proceeding is not required or permitted to ratify an unchallenged acknowledgment of parentage. Provides a procedure for rescission. Provides for a challenge after expiration for a period of rescission. Provides a procedure for challenge by the signatory. Directs the court to give full faith and credit to an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage effective in another state if the acknowledgment or denial is in a signed record and otherwise complies with the law of the other state. Provides for forms for acknowledgment and denial of parentage. Permits the Department of Human Services to release certain information and promulgate regulations. Provides for authority to order or deny genetic testing. Provides for requirements and reporting for genetic testing. Permits individuals to challenge genetic testing results. Provides for the costs of genetic testing. Provides for genetic testing when specimens are not available. Permits the court to order genetic testing of a deceased individual. Permits the court to order genetic testing of identical siblings. Provides for the confidentiality of genetic testing. Specifies that a proceeding may be commenced to adjudicate the parentage of a child. Provides for standing to maintain a proceeding. Provides for notice of proceeding. Specifies that the court may adjudicate an individual's parentage of a child only if the court has personal jurisdiction over the individual. Provides for venue for a proceeding to adjudicate parentage. Provides for the admissibility of results of genetic testing. Provides for

adjudicating the parentage of a child with an alleged genetic parent. Provides for adjudicating the parentage of a child with a presumed parent. Provides for adjudicating claims of de facto parentage of a child. Provides for adjudicating the parentage of a child with an acknowledged parent. Provides for the adjudicating parent. Provides for adjudicating the parentage of a child of assisted reproduction. Provides for adjudicating competing claims of parentage. Provides for precluding the establishment of parentage by the perpetrator of sexual assault. Permits courts to issue a temporary order for child support. Permits courts to combine a proceeding to adjudicate parentage with a proceeding for adoption, termination of parental rights, child custody or visitation, child support, divorce, dissolution or annulment, administration of an estate or another appropriate proceeding. Provides for proceedings before birth. Directs the court to adjudicate the parentage of a child without a jury. Permits courts to close a proceeding to the public. Specifies that an order adjudicating parentage must identify the child in a manner provided by the law. Provides for a binding effect of determination of parentage. Asserts that a donor is not a parent of a child conceived by assisted reproduction. Provides for an individual who consents under section 9704 (relating to consent to assisted reproduction) to assisted reproduction with another individual who agrees to give birth to a child conceived by the assisted reproduction with the intent to be a parent of the child is a parent of the child. Provides for consent to assisted reproduction. Provides for limitation on spouse's dispute of parentage. Provides for the effect of certain legal proceedings regarding marriage. Provides for withdrawal of consent. Provides for the parentage status of a deceased individual. Provides for the order or judgment of parentage. Provides for eligibility to enter into a surrogacy agreement. Provides requirements for a surrogacy agreement. Provides for parentage under a gestational surrogacy agreement. Provides for requirements to validate a genetic surrogacy agreement. Provides for the termination of the genetic surrogacy agreement. Provides for parentage under a validated genetic surrogacy agreement. Provides for the effect of a non-validated genetic surrogacy agreement. Provides for the parentage status of a deceased intended parent in a genetic surrogacy agreement. Provides for a breach of a genetic surrogacy agreement. Provides for the collection of information. Directs a gamete bank or fertility clinic authorized to operate under the laws of this commonwealth to disclose nonidentifying medical information collected and other collected information per section 9904 (relating to disclosure of information). Requires a gamete bank or fertility clinic authorized under the laws of this commonwealth, and which collected the gamete used in the assisted production to make good faith effort to provide access to the donor's nonidentifying medical history to the requester upon request of a child conceived by assisted production who has attained 18 years of age, or by a parent or guardian on behalf of a minor child. Mandates a gamete bank or fertility clinic that received gametes used in the assisted production from another gamete bank or fertility clinic to disclose the name, address, phone number and email address of the gamete bank or fertility clinic from which the gametes were received upon request of a child conceived by assisted reproduction who has attained 18 years of age. Provides for recordkeeping. Provides for uniformity of application and construction. Establishes a relation to the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. Specifies the transitional provision. Amends language and makes technical changes throughout the act. Effective in one year. (Prior PN: 1276, 1880). The bill was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Chairman Struzzi said his caucus has concerns regarding the fiscal impact of the bill.

[HB 1048](#) - (PN 1651) Amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally), adding Chapter 62 to provide for water and sewer projects. Provides definitions. Permits replacement or remediation for private sewer lateral and private water lateral projects and the use of public money or municipal employees for the projects. Removes the construction and maintenance provision and adds provisions for prioritization. Asserts that nothing in the section shall be construed to supersede, waive or provide an exception to a law requiring competitive bidding in the commonwealth. Establishes prohibition. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1138). The bill was **reported as committed**, with Reps. Eric Davanzo (R-Westmoreland), Ann Flood (R-Northampton), Charity Krupa (R-Fayette) and Ryan Warner (R-Fayette) voting in the negative.

[HB 1331](#) - (PN 1629) The Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 2025-2026 provides for the capital budget for fiscal year 2025-2026; itemizes public improvement projects, furniture and equipment projects, transportation assistance, redevelopment assistance projects, flood control projects and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission projects leased or assisted by the Department of General Services and other state agencies, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizes the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services and other state agencies; authorizes the use of current revenue for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services and other state agencies stating the estimated useful life of the projects; and makes appropriations. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously reported as **amended**.

[A01092](#), by Harris, updates monetary values. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.



Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO2398 - Developing the Early Educator Pipeline

Sponsor

Rep. Joe Hogan (R)

Summary

Creates a pilot program that establishes a pipeline for developing the next generation of early education teachers.

Intro Date

06/17/2025

Last Action

06/17/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2407 - Developing the Early Educator Pipeline

Sponsor

Rep. Joe Hogan (R)

Summary

Aims to create a pilot program that will create a pipeline to develop the next generation of early education teachers.

Intro Date

06/18/2025

Last Action

06/18/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

Basic Ed Bill Actions

HB17 - 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 subjects of instruction and flag code.

Sponsor

Rep. Dane Watro (R)

Summary

(PN 2) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code. Provides for every elementary public and private school to teach writing in print, joined italics and cursive handwriting. Allows the secretary of education to provide the teaching of subjects in a language other than English. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

01/08/2025

Actions

05/07/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Education

05/07/2025 H - Reported as committed - House Education

05/07/2025 H - First consideration

06/18/2025 H - Removed from table

06/23/2025 H - Placed on HVS

HB179 - An Act authorizing the provision or sale of Pennsylvania milk in Pennsylvania schools.

Sponsor

Rep. John A. Lawrence (R)

Summary

(PN 858) The Whole Milk in Pennsylvania Schools Act authorizes the provision or sale of Pennsylvania milk in Pennsylvania schools. Provides definitions. Mandates Pennsylvania milk that is offered for sale to a Pennsylvania school be deemed to be in the stream of intrastate commerce. Permits the school board or other governing entity of a Pennsylvania school to utilize funds from state or local sources to obtain whole Pennsylvania milk or reduced-fat Pennsylvania milk to provide or sell. Directs the Secretary of Education to notify the superintendent or chief administrator of each Pennsylvania school of the provisions of the act. Directs the Attorney General to bring a civil action against the federal government or any other entity to recover funds withheld or revoked as a result of an action taken by the school board or other governing entity. Directs the secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Milk Board, to issue a report to the chairperson and minority chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the House and Senate. Provides for expiration. Effective in 30 days.

Intro Date

03/10/2025

Actions

06/11/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/16/2025, 11:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Agriculture and Rural Affairs), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

06/16/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Agriculture and Rural Affairs

06/16/2025 H - Reported as committed - House Agriculture and Rural Affairs

06/16/2025 H - First consideration

06/16/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Rules

HB538 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up; and making an editorial change.

Sponsor

Rep. Robert Leadbeter (R)

Summary

(PN 531) Amends the Public School Code, Article XX-G, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up; and making an editorial change. Includes provisions relating to human trafficking. Defines "human trafficking," "human trafficking organization," and "involuntary servitude." Includes a nonprofit organization that specializes in outreach and education programs on human trafficking in the development of an overall education program. Provides contents of human trafficking subject matter and requires human trafficking component of an education program to begin with the 2027-2028 school year. Adds the phrase "human trafficking" throughout the act. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

02/10/2025

Actions

06/16/2025 H - Removed from table

06/17/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/17/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/17/2025 H - Second consideration, with amendments

06/17/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Appropriations

HB681 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school health services, further providing for health services, for reports and for interagency coordinating council for child health, nutrition and physical education; and, in terms and courses of study, further providing for physical education.

Sponsor

Rep. Danielle Friel Otten (D)

Summary

(PN 1882) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, further providing for health services, for reports and for interagency coordinating council for child health, nutrition and physical education; and, in terms and courses of study, further providing for physical education. Provides for student confidentiality. Exempts a student from height and weight measurement if the student's parent or legal guardian requests an exemption in writing. Directs school districts to provide notification to the student's parent or guardian regarding the procedure to request an exemption. Permits student measurements to be tracked into a growth pattern. Asserts that a school district may not deliver a student's body mass index (BMI) to either the student or the student's parent or legal guardian unless requested by the parent or legal guardian. Directs school districts to report measurements to the Secretary of Health in a manner that protects confidentiality. Includes the Department of Human Services (DHS) secretary as a member of the Interagency Coordinating Council for Child Health, Nutrition and Physical Education. Requires the council to include recommendations from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) education program. Mandates the final report to be available on the websites of DHS, Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (PDE) and Department of Agriculture (PDA). Directs that in the academic instruction on personal health, nutrition and physical fitness, the calculation of BMI is prohibited and any instruction that requires the collection of a student's height and weight measurement information shall be conducted in a manner that protects student confidentiality. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1648, 695)

Intro Date

02/20/2025

Actions

06/11/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

06/11/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

06/11/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/11/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

06/18/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

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

Sponsor

Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D)

Summary

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

Intro Date

05/28/2025

Actions

06/11/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/17/2025, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Children and Youth), Room B31, Main Capitol

06/17/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Children and Youth

06/17/2025 H - Reported as committed - House Children and Youth

06/17/2025 H - First consideration

06/17/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Rules

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

06/18/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/24/2025, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

HB1605 - An Act amending Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in membership, contributions and benefits, further providing for creditable nonschool service; and, in membership, credited service, classes of service, and eligibility for benefits, further providing for creditable nonstate service.

Sponsor

Rep. Torren C. Ecker (R)

Summary

(PN 1921) Amends Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government), in membership, contributions and benefits, further providing for creditable nonschool service; and, in membership, credited service, classes of service, and eligibility for benefits, further providing for creditable nonstate service. Increases the time served during USERRA leave to not exceed 10 years. Asserts that the total creditable nonstate service may not exceed 10 years. Provides that a member with multiple service may not purchase more than a total of 10 years of military service in the State Employees' Retirement System and the Public School Employees' Retirement System. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

06/16/2025

Actions

06/13/2025 H - Introduced

06/16/2025 H - Referred to - House State Government

SB33 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for comprehensive school counseling services.

Sponsor

Sen. Lindsey Marie Williams (D)

Summary

(PN 969) Amends the Public School Code, providing for comprehensive school counseling services. Defines “department,” “direct services,” “indirect services,” “plan,” “program planning and school support,” “school counselor” and “school entity.” Provides for a written comprehensive school counseling plan, ensuring student services are coordinated to provide comprehensive and developmental support to all students. Establishes general requirements for the written comprehensive plan. Provides that the plan must include a foundation component, a management component, a delivery component and an accountability component. Provides that the plan must guide students in academic pursuits, career planning and social and emotional development; follow the comprehensive school counseling program guidance; include annual goals based on vision and mission statements to ensure equitable access to opportunities; and identify student needs for a multilevel school data review. Provides for allotted time for the school entity’s counselor to carry out the duties stated in the plan. Establishes that a school counselor should spend at least 80% of their working time providing direct and indirect services to students. Provides for who can assist in collaboration with school counselors for direct and indirect services such as academic advisement services, the career planning process, providing social and emotional skills to support students and intervening with students at risk of dropping out of school. Provides that a school counselor can spend up to 20% of their working time during student contact days performing program planning and school support. Provides that each school entity should post its plan on its publicly available website under the category of state-required information. Provides for departmental oversight and duties concerning the program implementation in school entities. Establishes that this article does not supersede or preempt the rights, remedies or procedures afforded to school employees or labor organizations under federal or state law or any provision of a collective bargaining agreement with a school employer. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

06/18/2025

Actions

06/18/2025 S - Introduced

06/18/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

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

Sponsor

Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R)

Summary

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

Intro Date

02/26/2025

Actions

04/02/2025 S - Discussed during public hearing - Senate Education

04/02/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

04/02/2025 S - Third consideration and final passage

04/03/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

06/18/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/24/2025, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

SB858 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in pupils and attendance, further providing for military child advance enrollment.

Sponsor

Sen. Greg Rothman (R)

Summary

(PN 959) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, further providing for military child advance enrollment. Provides for credit transfer and calculation of grade point average for military children. Provides that after a credit transfer acceptance by a child in secondary school, the receiving school district should accept the grade point associated with the credit transferred from the sending school entity and use it in the calculation of a cumulative grade point average at the receiving school district. Defines "receiving school district," "secondary school" and "sending school entity." Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

06/18/2025

Actions

06/18/2025 S - Introduced

06/18/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

Higher Ed Bill Actions

HB538 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up; and making an editorial change.

Sponsor

Rep. Robert Leadbeter (R)

Summary

(PN 531) Amends the Public School Code, Article XX-G, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up; and making an editorial change. Includes provisions relating to human trafficking. Defines "human trafficking," "human trafficking organization," and "involuntary servitude." Includes a nonprofit organization that specializes in outreach and education programs on human trafficking in the development of an overall education program. Provides contents of human trafficking subject matter and requires human trafficking component of an education program to begin with the 2027-2028 school year. Adds the phrase "human trafficking" throughout the act. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

02/10/2025

Actions

06/16/2025 H - Removed from table

06/17/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/17/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/17/2025 H - Second consideration, with amendments

06/17/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Appropriations

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

Sponsor

Rep. Tim Briggs (D)

Summary

(PN 1004) Amends the Public School Code, in the State System of Higher Education, further providing for Board of Governors. Provides three members should be selected from trustees of the constituent institutions, but no more than one may represent a constituent institution. Provides one member must be a current or retired member of the state system bargaining unit of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and selected by the bargaining unit governing board. Establishes one member must be a current or retired member of the state system bargaining unit of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University faculties, selected by the governing board of the bargaining unit. Provides this member should have expertise or substantial experience in either postsecondary, education, finance, business, nonprofit management, law or public administration. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

03/17/2025

Actions

03/17/2025 H - Introduced

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

06/18/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/24/2025, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

HB1403 - 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 program of continuing professional and paraprofessional education.

Sponsor

Rep. Lisa A. Borowski (D)

Summary

(PN 1685) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for program of continuing professional and paraprofessional education. Mandates that inactive certifications be granted at no cost to the professional educator. Directs that inactive certification be removed by the department upon the application of the professional educator and evidence that the professional educator has received an offer of employment that has committed to providing and ensuring that they complete 30 hours of in-service continuing professional education within the first two years of employment. Asserts that professional educators have the same number of hours of continuing professional education and the same amount of time in which to complete the hours as existed for the professional educator at the time inactive certification was granted upon removal of inactive certification. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1602)

Intro Date

05/05/2025

Actions

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

06/10/2025 H - Removed from table

06/11/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/17/2025 H - Second consideration

06/17/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Appropriations

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

06/09/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

06/09/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

06/09/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/09/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

06/18/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

SB870 - An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Educational Assistance Program, further providing for definitions, for eligibility and for recoupment of grant payments; and, in Military Family Education Program, further providing for definitions, for eligibility, for limitations and for recoupment of Military Family Education Program grant payments.

Sponsor

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)

Summary

No summary available yet.

Intro Date

06/18/2025

Actions

06/18/2025 S - Introduced

06/18/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

Upcoming Events

MONDAY – 06/23/25

2:00 PM, PA Schools Work Press Conference

Press Conference, Harrisburg Capitol Complex

PA Schools Work will be hosting a press conference about Public School funding for the 25-26 budget year.

TUESDAY – 06/24/2025

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

Voting Meeting, Room 515, Irvis Office Building

To consider: [HB 938](#), [HB 1536](#) and [SB 315](#)

WEDNESDAY – 06/25/25

12:00 PM, Funding for our Public Schools

Press Conference, Harrisburg Capitol Complex

1:00 PM, Solar for Schools Press Conference

Press Conference, Harrisburg Capitol Complex

Labor and environmental leaders will join a bipartisan group of members to advocate for an additional \$25 million appropriation for Solar for Schools in this year's budget.

MONDAY – 06/30/25

10:00 AM, School Funding Press Event

Press Conference, Harrisburg Capitol Complex

WEDNESDAY – 7/09/2025

TBA, State Board of Education

Board Meeting, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg

In the News

[06/13/2025 - PSERS Board of Trustees Honors Retiring Executive Director Terrill "Terri" Sanchez](#)

[06/13/2025 - Flood Proposes Sales Tax Holiday to Ease Back-to-School Costs for Families](#)

[06/13/2025 - Lt. Gov. Austin Davis and Second Lady Call Highlight Need for More Child Care Workers in Pennsylvania's Rural Communities](#)

[06/13/2025 - PSERS Board of Trustees Announces Retiree Re-Election and Upcoming Vacancy in Active Certified Seat](#)

[06/13/2025 - ICYMI: Governor Shapiro Delivers Commencement Addresses at Two Pennsylvania High Schools, Reminding Students There Are Many Paths to Success](#)

[06/17/2025 - AG Sunday Joins Carlisle School Leaders, Sen. Rothman to Spotlight Safe2Say Something's Impact on Pa. Students during 2024-25 School Year](#)

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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