

June 20 – 26, 2025

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SESSION STATUS

At 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 26, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Monday, June 30, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 3:23 p.m. on Thursday, June 26, 2025, the Senate recessed until Monday, June 30, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

June 30
July 1-2
Sept. 22-24 (NV), 29-30
Oct. 1, 6-8, 27-29
Nov. 17-19
Dec. 8-10 (NV), 15-17

Senate

June 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

PENNSYLVANIA SUPERINTENDENTS CALL FOR ADEQUACY FUNDING CONSISTENCY IN THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

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

Superintendents from rural communities in the commonwealth came together in the Main Capitol Rotunda today to support the Adequacy Funding Initiative for the 2025-2026 fiscal budget.

David McAndrew, Jr., superintendent, Panther Valley School District, spoke with “gratitude and urgency” regarding adequacy funding to bridge the funding gap between rural school districts compared to others in the commonwealth. He explained the extra funding from the adequacy funding formula helped his school district receive updated 20-year-old curriculum materials, as well as hire a social worker and guidance counselor for student mental health. McAndrew also mentioned a new reading team for small-group instruction as well as more paraprofessional positions. He emphasized that while the school district has made progress, “if we don't sustain this investment, we risk losing the very momentum we fought so hard to build.” McAndrew stated they “cannot afford to go backwards” if continual, equitable investments are not made.

Alan Johnson, superintendent, Northern Cambria School District, noted his school district was able to provide summer school enhancements as well as cover rising cyber charter and vocational technical (vo-tech) tuition costs, building renovations, curriculum updates and Chromebooks for students. He described the funding as “a huge leap forward” for the district, which wouldn't have been possible without adequacy funding. “A fundamental promise of our commonwealth constitution is that every child, regardless of zip code, deserves an education that equips them to thrive,” Johnson said. He expressed disappointment about conversations limiting school funding and stated it should not be a partisan issue. Johnson called student education “critical” but “complex,” noting there should be continuous reassessment in funding formulas to ensure maximum investment in areas that need it most. Johnson called adequacy funding “the right first step” in fixing a complicated challenge.

Bill August, superintendent, Shippensburg Area School District, stated that public education funding is an “imperfect and imprecise science” with longstanding inequities to be addressed. He mentioned his district's growth in recent years, calling it a benefit with many challenges attached. “More students mean more teachers, and more teachers mean more classrooms,” he said. August explained the difficult decisions that come with allocating funding, noting that all issues seem “equally urgent.” While adequacy funding does not cover every challenge rural school districts face, August noted it helps “level the playing field” and assists students in developing their skills. He described it as more “breathing room,” which allowed students to continue to have access to classes such as art, music and physical education and allowed special education students to get “the support they deserve.” August expressed concern over public school funding and rising cyber charter education costs and mentioned rural school districts are facing “very serious financial threats” without adequacy funding.

Maureen Duffy-Guy, pastor, Trinity United Church of Christ (UCC) and St. Peter's UCC, read a statement on behalf of Dr. David Hatfield, superintendent of the Williams Valley School District in Dauphin County. She mentioned her churches reside in Dauphin County as well and was asked

to speak in Hatfield's absence. She explained adequacy funding helps address an inequitable funding system for public education, describing it as "a necessary correction." She also stated schools need consistent support in order to build upon growth rather than attempting to do more with less funding. Duffy-Guy then gave support for adequacy funding in her own words, mentioning the "historic" investment in public education in last year's fiscal budget. She stated she has "cautious hope" for public education funding in this year's budget as "much still remains unfunded." Duffy-Guy urged legislators to "please remember the rural school districts" and continue to provide funding through the adequacy formula.

Dr. Rita Sterner-Hine, superintendent, Waynesboro Area School District, noted that while her district is not entirely rural, it serves many rural communities, and noted that 55% of the district is considered "economically disadvantaged." She mentioned her district has less of a tax base per student and stated the "tax millage needs to be considerably higher to generate the same level of revenue" as school districts in surrounding areas. Sterner-Hine said the district would have to increase spending by \$20 million in order to rise to the level of what an average school district in Pennsylvania spends. She explained that adequacy funding allowed her district to maintain and improve academic achievement, provide competitive salaries and benefits for staff, pay for rising cyber charter tuition costs, add a school nurse, as well as many other improvements. Sterner-Hine explained the adequacy funding helps her district, "one of the most frugal in the commonwealth," ensure that they can continue meeting students' needs.

David Burkett, superintendent, Everett Area School District, thanked Pennsylvania's legislative body for creating the adequacy funding initiative, calling it a "meaningful step" toward addressing inequities rural school districts face. Burkett noted the extra funding helped his district purchase new curriculum materials for math and science programs, sustain full-day kindergarten and hire an autistic support teacher. He commended the adequacy funding for "helping schools retain quality education, update outdated outdoor materials, maintain programs and better serve all learners."

Brian Griffith, superintendent, Penns Valley Area School District, mentioned his district is located near Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), stating it puts his district at a disadvantage due to the revenue generated from the university. He noted that before the adequacy funding, a potential teacher could move "a few miles down the road" and receive a 40% increase in salary offers. "We would hire and train new teachers, only to lose them to neighbors significantly receiving significantly higher pay," he said. Griffith explained they were able to fill counseling positions, which help students with mental health as well as career and college goals. Griffith also stated cyber charter tuition costs are a "financial strain," and mentioned support for [HB 1500](#), calling for cyber charter reforms. He commended the House and Senate for working in a bipartisan way "to address the unconstitutionality and deficiencies of school funding as declared by the Commonwealth Court."



SNAPA ADVOCATES FOR UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | June 24, 2025

The School Nutrition Association of Pennsylvania (SNAPA) was joined by Sen. Lindsey Williams (D-Allegheny), Sen. Judy Schwank (D-Berks) and Rep. Emily Kinkead (D-Allegheny) to call for the passing of [SB 180](#) and [HB 180](#) at a press conference in the Main Capitol Rotunda today.

Nicole Melia, Public Policy & Legislation Committee (PPL), SNAPA, said thousands of children in Pennsylvania rely on school breakfast and lunch as consistent sources of daily nutrition. She emphasized that proposed federal cuts to programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid make universal school meals all the more imperative. She stressed that universal school meals would be provided to students regardless of their parents' income. She noted that children struggle with food insecurity across the commonwealth, including urban, rural and suburban areas. She said SB 180 and HB 180, which would expand the current no-cost school breakfast program to include lunches, provide a stable path forward and eliminate stigmas surrounding free or discounted school meals. She argued that providing universal meals would allow schools to focus on education while simultaneously supporting local farmers and the economy. "Our children do not ask for politics to interfere with their basic needs," she said. "They shouldn't bear the cost of a debate in Washington."

Sen. Williams, the prime sponsor of SB 180, said the legislation expands on the "incredible success" of the universal breakfast program to include lunches. She cited a statistic claiming that one in eight children in Pennsylvania does not have reliable access to nutritious food, with that number increasing to one in five children in rural areas. She said school meals reduce discomfort and improve student learning. She highlighted recent federal cuts to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and their impacts on farms and food banks. She criticized the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act, referring to it as "the president's big, ugly

billionaire bill” and argued that it would cut programs that help working families. “Codifying child hunger is not good governance,” she said. “It’s irresponsible, short-sighted and it’s everything that me and my colleagues stand against.”

Sen. Schwank, a co-sponsor of SB 180, said she has witnessed how widespread childhood hunger is and how deeply it affects communities firsthand. She highlighted the correlation between meeting a child’s basic nutrition needs and academic success. She said the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the fragility of food access for many working families in her district. She discussed the current stigma many students feel by receiving free or discounted school lunch, arguing that universal school meals would ensure that all children are treated equally. She said SB 180 would create new opportunities to innovate in Pennsylvania’s agricultural economy. “Universal school meal legislation is not just the right thing to do, it’s the smart thing to do,” she said.

Rep. Kinkead, the prime sponsor of HB 180, criticized the practice of means testing free school meals. She said children who are hungry are more likely to struggle in school and misbehave. She argued that it was “shameful” for the commonwealth not to provide a “basic tenet of life” such as food to school children. She said students should not be singled out because they are eligible for free or discounted meals. She stressed that a student’s sole focus should be learning, not worrying where their next meal will be. “We have to do better,” she said.

Hannah Daley, a nine-year-old student from Spring Ford Area School District, said no kid should go hungry. She discussed her classmates’ struggles with food insecurity. She said students should focus on learning and enjoying their school experience.

George Matysik, executive director, Share Food Program, said the Share Food Program serves 300,000 children per day. “We are asking, quite simply, if a kindergarten deserves to have breakfast in the richest country in the history of the world,” he said. He criticized tax cuts for the wealthy and high military spending in the face of widespread childhood food insecurity.

Melia closed by citing internal SNAPA polling that states 83% of Pennsylvanians support universal school meals.



LEGISLATORS CELEBRATE FIRST ROUND OF SOLAR FOR SCHOOL GRANTS

By Zoe Buchmann, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | June 25, 2025

Legislators from the Senate and House were joined by school superintendents to celebrate the first round of Solar for School grants at today’s press conference in the Main Capitol Rotunda.

Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D-Philadelphia) marked the inaugural round of the Solar for Schools grants, highlighting nearly \$25 million in state funds invested in public schools across 23 counties in Pennsylvania. She explained that the program supports clean, on-site energy generation, job creation and long-term savings for schools. She emphasized that the savings from solar installations can be reinvested by schools in whatever way best serves their students, such as STEM programs, safety upgrades or staffing. She, as a parent of four, framed the initiative as both a professional and personal priority, aligning clean energy with educational quality and independence. She noted that demand far outpaced available funding, with \$88 million requested and only \$25 million appropriated, calling it a clear sign of strong statewide interest. As budget discussions unfold, she expressed hope for a second round of funding.

Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R-Beaver) expressed strong support for the Solar for Schools grant program, emphasizing its bipartisan success and financial benefits for school districts, particularly in her southwestern Pennsylvania district. She noted that energy is one of the highest school expenses, and this program helps ease that burden on taxpayers. She shared that all five school districts in her district that applied received grants totaling nearly \$1 million, highlighting projected annual savings ranging from \$7,300 to \$49,000 per district. She praised the program as a “win-win-win” for schools, taxpayers and the state, and said she looks forward to its expansion in future years.

Robert Bair, president, Pennsylvania State Building and Construction Trades Council, apologized for arriving late due to attending the opening of the Crane Clean Energy Center, which produces 835 megawatts (MWs) of carbon-free electricity. He praised the Solar for Schools program for helping school districts save money and reduce property tax burdens. He admitted initial skepticism about the program but commended Rep. Fiedler’s vision and persistence in making it a bipartisan success, supported by leaders like Sen. Bartolotta. He shared they’ve asked Gov. Josh Shapiro for \$50 million more in funding for the program, citing high demand and the success of the initial \$25 million. He emphasized the program’s nonpartisan appeal, benefiting both red and blue districts,

and expressed a desire to expand it statewide to all 500 school districts. He advocated for integrating clean energy with student training programs, calling the initiative a “win-win-win” for education, the environment and taxpayers.

Rep. Fiedler highlighted the broad coalition of environmental and labor groups, including the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA), Sierra Club, PennFuture, Clean Air Council, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and others that helped champion the Solar for Schools initiative.

Rep. Dave Madsen (D-Dauphin) highlighted the leadership of the Steelton-Highspire School District in the Solar for Schools initiative. He explained that this low-to-moderate income district became a trailblazer by creatively securing grants to become 100% solar-powered, making it a model for other schools across Pennsylvania. He shared how legislators toured the school, rode electric buses and saw the tangible benefits of solar investment. He emphasized that programs like this are key to transitioning to a carbon-free economy and ensuring a cleaner future. He praised Rep. Fiedler, Senate colleagues and all supporters for helping make the initiative a reality and invited others to visit Steelton-Highspire to see the success firsthand.

Dr. Mick Iskric, Jr., superintendent, Steelton-Highspire School District, emphasized that Solar for Schools is about purpose, sustainability and long-term educational equity. He described how every dollar counts and how solar investment has created lasting benefits, particularly for smaller, underfunded districts. He noted the district's existing 1.7 MW solar array, built on a former landfill with the help of McClure Company, and how it has made Steelton-Highspire a statewide model for clean school-based energy. He said that the district is now working with NRG Controls to expand its solar capacity, potentially covering the cost of a new elementary school roof. He also highlighted their full transition to electric school buses in partnership with First Student, aligning sustainability with student health and emissions reduction. He thanked bipartisan state leaders for championing the initiative and expressed strong support for the proposed \$25 million in this year's state budget to further expand the program's reach and impact.

David Marsiglio, business manager, Bloomsburg Area School District, spoke about their solar project made possible through the Solar for Schools program. He explained that the district, which serves over 1,500 students, is planning to install ground-mounted solar arrays at W.W. Evans Elementary and Bloomsburg High School. He continued that these installations will power four of the district's five buildings, including the administrative office and Memorial School. He said that the total project cost is estimated at \$5 million, but with \$1.6 million in federal energy tax credits and an \$800,000 state grant, the district's actual cost drops to \$2.6 million. He added that over the 20-year lifespan of the panels, he expects to save \$4.3 million on energy costs. He continued that the district plans to turn the solar array into a hands-on educational tool, studying its effects on microclimate and the urban heat island phenomenon through student-led projects and science fair presentations. He praised the program as a smart investment in both education and energy efficiency, thanking Rep. Fiedler, Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-Northumberland) and Rep. Robert Leadbeter (R-Columbia) for making the opportunity possible.

Rep. Bud Cook (R-Washington) expressed pride and gratitude that local schools were selected to receive funding through the Solar for Schools program. He emphasized that solar energy, alongside traditional sources like coal, oil and natural gas, can be a reliable component of Pennsylvania's energy portfolio. He highlighted the economic and educational benefits of the program, expressing interest in how these solar projects will lead to energy cost savings and new learning opportunities for students.

Colleen Friend, superintendent, Carlisle Area School District, commended Rep. Fiedler's leadership in creating the program. She highlighted that the program is about more than just financial benefits, as it represents a commitment to sustainability, fiscal responsibility and hands-on learning for students. She said Carlisle received a \$252,000 grant to install a 37,000-square-foot ground-mounted solar array at Crestview Elementary School. She added that with additional incentives, the district's net cost is about \$200,000, with an estimated payback period of three to five years and expected annual energy savings of approximately \$50,000. She noted that these savings allow the district to redirect funds toward classrooms, teacher support and student programs. She also emphasized the educational value of the project, offering students real-world learning opportunities in STEM through live data and environmental impact studies. She stated that this fosters an understanding of how innovation and sustainability intersect, showing students that clean energy is a valued part of Pennsylvania's future. She added that Carlisle is already planning its next solar project and described the program as aligned with the district's values, financial goals and educational mission. She encouraged continued support and expansion of solar energy in schools across Pennsylvania.

Rep. Fiedler recalled a visit to the Central Cambria School District, where they also spoke with students. She highlighted a memorable exchange where she mentioned that school utility bills fluctuate, but Superintendent Jason Moore corrected her, saying they only keep rising. She noted that while utility bills are not usually a personal concern for her, as a homeowner, she experiences the impact monthly. She stated that Pennsylvania, like much of the world, is facing an energy crisis, and emphasized that programs like Solar for Schools help alleviate those concerns for superintendents by allowing schools to generate their own power on-site.

Dr. Jason Moore, superintendent, Central Cambria School District, praised the importance of the Solar for Schools initiative. He explained that Central Cambria School District is a large, rural district with about 1,500 students and significant transportation costs. He highlighted that electricity bills had been steadily increasing, reaching about \$800,000 within a \$30 million budget. He said that

the solar grant will fund a project for a smaller elementary school, which is expected to save around \$30,000 annually in energy costs. He emphasized the impact of those savings, stating it could allow the district to maintain or add paraprofessionals and other student resources. Moore contrasted the responsibilities of school leaders and legislators by saying school leaders focus primarily on what benefits students, while lawmakers must consider multiple perspectives. He pointed out that predictable operational costs allow more funding to go directly to student needs like smaller class sizes, more teachers and better resources. He noted the harsh reality of limited budgets and expressed strong support for the Solar for Schools program as a wise investment that benefits both students and taxpayers, including seniors on fixed incomes. He thanked Rep. Fiedler and everyone involved in the legislation, urging that the program be continued for the future good of schools and communities.

Rep. Fiedler thanked all participants and superintendents for their work and support for the program.



PSHA MEMBERS, LEGISLATORS SUPPORT INTERSTATE COMPACT ADMISSION AND INCREASED ACCESS TO THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

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

Members from the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association (PSHA), along with Reps. Arvind Venkat (D-Allegheny) and Brandon Markosek (D-Allegheny), gathered in the Main Capitol Rotunda today to support [HB 80](#) and [HB 949](#).

Dana Bitetti, past president, PSHA, thanked members and the audience at large for attending the press event. She praised PSHA, comprised of speech language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists, and described their mission of empowering professionals within their organization through education, advocacy and inclusion. She highlighted the important work done by speech pathologists and audiologists, mentioning early intervention efforts in schools and hospitals as well as long-term care.

Rep. Venkat, prime sponsor of HB 80, said, “As a fellow health professional, I’m very well aware of how critical it is.” He described his bill, which would allow Pennsylvania to join the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). Rep. Venkat noted the General Assembly’s interest and efforts in joining various interstate compacts throughout the years and praised Gov. Josh Shapiro for “finally” being able to operationalize them. He then described ASLP-IC further, mentioning that 36 states and one territory have already joined. “This summer is the opportunity for Pennsylvania to be part of the rule-making process if we are able to pass this legislation,” he stated. Rep. Venkat commended the House Professional Licensure Committee for a unanimous approval of the bill and expressed hope for full House and Senate confirmation. He thanked PSHA for their work and advocacy in the healthcare community and committed his dedication to serving the interests of medical professionals in the legislature.

Rep. Markosek, prime sponsor of HB 949, stated, “I usually start every speech I give with the same sentence — I talk with a rough stutter.” He said that due to his personal connection to speech and language disorder advocacy, he understands the challenges both children and adults go through. Rep. Markosek focused on his bill, which would allow children diagnosed with Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) to receive insurance coverage for necessary speech therapy treatments. He commended the passage of last session’s [HB 2268](#), increasing insurance coverage for speech therapy due to stuttering. Rep. Markosek mentioned he received his speech-language diagnosis at two years old and expressed disappointment that many do not receive diagnoses that early. “That’s just not right, and that’s why it’s very important, whether it’s apraxia stuttering, regardless of what it is, a child should not be denied access to a therapist,” he emphasized. Rep. Markosek reiterated his “passion” for advocacy in this area of health care, mentioning he “deals with the negative stigmas every day.” He noted his dedication to being an advocate for these challenges, adding, “I don’t let those bad days prevent me from doing my job.”

Dr. Nicole Billak, president-elect, PSHA, emphasized, “It is time to raise the Medicaid reimbursement rates for therapy services in Pennsylvania.” She noted the Medicaid reimbursement rates have remained stagnant for three decades, and some service rates have not been updated since 1989. Dr. Billak highlighted that operational costs for clinics have only increased. She criticized Pennsylvania for having “one of the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rates in the country,” noting higher reimbursement rates for neighboring states such as Delaware and Maryland. Dr. Billak explained the “dire” consequences of this inequality, such as clinics closing their doors to Medicaid patients, wait lists extending as long as six months and families traveling hours to find “basic therapy care.” She noted, “This is not just a financial problem — this is an access problem.” Dr. Billak emphasized that Pennsylvania has “created therapy deserts” due to these outdated reimbursement rates. She mentioned the “overwhelming majority” of SLPs and physical therapists (PTs) are willing to serve Medicaid patients if the reimbursement rates improve. She called on the General Assembly to raise the Medicaid reimbursement rates so that it can reduce barriers both for patients looking for services and providers

who want to serve Medicaid patients. Dr. Billak highlighted that protecting patients' Medicaid access will save money in the long term by preventing costly outcomes such as hospitalization, long-term care and general loss of independence. "If we act today, we preserve this access, protect the quality of care and promote independence for thousands across the commonwealth," she said.

Brie Glover, CEO, Village Care Family Services, Inc., described the severity of the SLP shortage in the country and specifically, Pennsylvania. She noted the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) estimated 15,000 to 20,000 unfilled positions by 2030. Glover mentioned this is due to several factors, including the outdated Medicaid reimbursement rates and high levels of burnout that cause professionals to exit the field. "Counties can't recruit or retain enough professionals and underserved communities are suffering most," she said. Glover focused on young children, noting their vulnerability due to a lack of early intervention at significant growth stages. She explained how families ask for the help they need, only to be told they need to wait weeks or months for care. "Every day that passes feels like a missed opportunity during the most critical window of development," she continued. Glover focused on certain counties in Pennsylvania, emphasizing that Philadelphia County alone has 2,325 children under six years old on its wait list for services. She explained how children who receive early intervention for speech and language disorders are more likely to enter kindergarten better prepared and demonstrate stronger language skills, reading scores and emotional regulation by third grade. Glover also focused on the financial impact, mentioning that "for every dollar spent on early intervention speech therapy, we save an estimated \$4 to \$17 in long-term public costs for reduced special education, improved academic outcomes and stronger life skills." She stated the earlier the therapeutic intervention, the better for children when preparing for school and developing vital life skills. Glover emphasized supporting early intervention programs and addressing the shortage of SLPs in order to create "healthier communities and brighter futures" for Pennsylvania.

Erin Buckwalter, president, PSHA, thanked various organizations that partner with PSHA and Reps. Venkat and Markosek for their legislation and advocacy before closing out the press conference.



APSCUF, LAWMAKERS HIGHLIGHT PA PROMISE POLLING DATA

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | June 25, 2025

Lawmakers and representatives from the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF) and the American Federation of Teachers PA (AFT-PA) discussed statewide polling about "Pennsylvania Promise" in the East Wing Rotunda today.

Ken Mash, president, APSCUF, announced the results of polling registered voters in the commonwealth that showed "69% support PA Promise," a plan to make higher education more affordable in the commonwealth. He said he spoke to a pollster and the pollster told him, "You just don't see a number that pops like that very often." He pointed out the poll showed a majority of Democrats, Independents, Republicans and "most every other category" support PA Promise. He spoke about the concerns about the costs of higher education and referred to the lawmakers present to provide their remarks.

Rep. Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia), majority chair, House Appropriations Committee, said the press conference is about "having the data to back up what we already know." He reiterated the concern about the costs of higher education and the attainment of the American Dream. He explained higher education for many is "unattainable, not because they're not qualified, nor they don't want to do it, but because they can't afford it." He urged the legislature to support PA Promise to attract students and businesses to the commonwealth.

Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia), minority chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, stated, "It's time to fulfill the promise." He reiterated the data to point out who supports PA Promise and noted 30 other states have similar programs. He listed some of the states that have programs and noted three of them border Pennsylvania — Maryland, New York and West Virginia. He repeated the call to "fulfill the promise."

Rep. Nathan Davidson (D-Dauphin) mentioned his experience working with Rep. Harris in his office in 2019 and first hearing about PA Promise. He asked, "Why haven't we done this?" He added, "It's obvious we can pay for it." He talked about his experiences with constituents who voiced concerns about the increasing costs of education. He voiced praise for PA Promise and argued it can help people "become the next generation of teachers, nurses and first responders and they want to give themselves freedom." He also made it a point to support PA Promise for the purpose of keeping "young minds" in the commonwealth and stated, "It's my view that there's very few things that are more worthy of spending tax dollars on public education."

Arthur Steinberg, vice president, AFT, discussed the shortage of teachers in the commonwealth and argued the PA Promise would assist teachers with their “overwhelming” student debt. He also explained the money in PA Promise would not go to “rich people that already have their kids in college, rather people who really need it.”

Rep. Justin Fleming (D-Dauphin) talked about his personal experience as a father whose son will be “following his parents’ footsteps” by attending Millersville University and talked about his experience paying for college. He highlighted and compared the differences in college costs from his years attending to the present and admitted that the reason why he went to Millersville was because he could afford it. He voiced support for PA Promise, which he said will give students a “chance to chart their own success and future.”

Mash said he and others were happy with the results of the polling. “We cannot afford to lose young people in Pennsylvania, and we need to attract young people to come to Pennsylvania,” he remarked.

Mash opened the press conference to questions from the media.

Is there a way to pay for PA Promise if it were to become law?

Rep. Harris reiterated the concerns of young people leaving Pennsylvania and replied to the question by answering with, “How do you not?” He admitted there would be “upfront investments to see dividends on the back end.”



PHILADELPHIA DEMOCRATS, EDUCATION LEADERS CALL TO FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By Daniel Sachetta, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | June 25, 2025

Philadelphia Democratic representatives, leaders from the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers (PFT) and the Philadelphia School District and advocates held a press conference in the East Wing Rotunda today to urge for increased basic education funding for Philadelphia schools in the 2025-26 state budget.

LeShawna Coleman, chief of staff, PFT, discussed the importance of securing adequate funding for Philadelphia public schools. She highlighted the challenges faced by the school district due to potential federal funding cuts for disabled and special needs students and meal programs. She emphasized the historic nature of this year's visit to the Capitol for state budget negotiations, stressing the need for a fair share of funding to make up for decades of unconstitutional funding.

Dr. Tony Watlington, superintendent, Philadelphia School District, shared the district's progress and the impact of historic underfunding. He thanked Gov. Josh Shapiro and legislators for the proposed \$202 million budget increase, which would significantly improve the district's financial outlook. He highlighted the district's advancements, such as increased student enrollment, improved test scores, higher graduation rates and reduced dropout rates. He committed to demonstrating the return on investment for the funding provided.

Reginald Streater, president, Philadelphia School Board, expressed his pride in being a product of the School District of Philadelphia and a parent of two children in the district. He praised the district's historical significance. He emphasized the importance of safe, welcoming and fully funded schools to invest in the future of the commonwealth. He called on legislators to pass a budget that ensures equitable funding for every child in the commonwealth. He highlighted a \$1.2 billion adequacy gap for basic student needs, such as access to STEM programs and updated textbooks and technology. He affirmed the board's support for educators and advocates.

Arthur Steinberg, president, PFT, emphasized the importance of providing Philadelphia public school students with necessary educational resources, representing 14,000 unionized educators and staff. He stressed the need for fair, healthy and safe working and learning conditions. He advocated for the passage of the basic education and adequacy funding increases proposed by Gov. Shapiro. He expressed support for [HB 1500](#) to address spending on cyber charters. He highlighted the potential legislation proposed by Republicans that may cut health care and nutrition support, which would negatively affect students in rural, suburban and urban school districts. He thanked the legislators who championed public education and urged members to support legislation that funds public schools.

Kate Sundeen, teacher, Academy of Palombo, member, PFT, shared her experiences as a teacher in Philadelphia. She discussed the disparities in school conditions and resources between Philadelphia schools and those in nearby districts. She highlighted the achievements of her students, including the Gates Millennium Scholarship, which has a 0.3% acceptance rate, and successes in various academic and extracurricular activities. She emphasized the potential of students despite inequitable conditions, stating that the students could do even better with fully funded resources and facilities. She called for full funding for education as a moral obligation.

Rep. Morgan Cephas (D-Philadelphia) spoke about the importance of quality education for every student in Pennsylvania. She noted the challenges faced by families in accessing educational opportunities. She shared an example of a parent's lengthy commute to take her children to school for better educational opportunities, emphasizing that full funding could change this situation for the better. She thanked various stakeholders for their dedication to improving education. She celebrated the positive changes from last year's educational investments, such as improved graduation rates and test scores. She stressed the importance of defending and increasing these investments in the face of federal attacks on public education. She emphasized that Democrats are ready to fight for and defend these investments in public education across the commonwealth.

Rep. Mary Isaacson (D-Philadelphia), HB 1500's prime sponsor, discussed the bill, emphasizing its aim to ensure equitable and adequate education across Pennsylvania. She highlighted the need to reform cyber charter laws for better accountability and educational outcomes. She called for the bill's passage in the Senate. She noted the legislation includes funding, accountability measures and support for school facilities.

Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D-Philadelphia) highlighted the challenges faced by Philadelphia public schools, including crumbling infrastructure and safety concerns. She shared a personal anecdote about asbestos in her children's school. She praised the positive aspects of Philadelphia schools and advocated for creative funding solutions, such as closing corporate tax loopholes. She expressed optimism for improvements in school conditions through the upcoming budget. She suggested looking at neighboring states that have tapped into new revenue streams to better fund schools.

Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia) discussed the inadequacy, inequity and unconstitutionality of Pennsylvania's school funding, referencing a February 7, 2023, court decision. He highlighted the disparity in resources between wealthy suburban schools and city schools, using Overbrook High School as an example. He criticized attitudes that set "low expectations for children's potential." He thanked Gov. Shapiro for securing an additional billion dollars for education last year and proposing a similar budget this year. He emphasized that the fight for funding is for all children in Pennsylvania, not just those in Philadelphia. He noted that 70% of school children in the state face similar challenges.

Sen. Nikil Saval (D-Philadelphia) spoke about his personal connection to Philadelphia public schools. He criticized the long-term underfunding of these schools, which has led to cuts in essential staff and resources. He called for increased, sustained and equitable funding to address past damage and ensure a brighter future for students. He highlighted his involvement in fighting against budget cuts in 2011 and discussed the 2023 Commonwealth Court ruling that deemed school funding unconstitutional. He advocated for visionary approaches to address disparities between schools, referring to Sen. Hughes' earlier remarks on urban versus suburban school investment. He emphasized the need for full and fair funding for every student, teacher and school across Philadelphia and the commonwealth.

Sen. Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia) emphasized the critical importance of investing in education to unlock better opportunities and fulfill the commonwealth's obligation to provide a thorough and efficient education for every child. He shared personal anecdotes about his parents overcoming barriers due to investments in their education. He argued that investing in young people is essential for the country to remain competitive globally. He stated that failing to provide an equal and efficient education robs society of potential growth. He gave an example of attracting corporations like Amazon to Philadelphia, where investment in education is a key consideration. He emphasized the legal obligation and investing in the future of the commonwealth as reasons to fully fund public schools.

Coleman thanked educators, administrators, elected officials and public school families for attending and sharing their remarks. She emphasized the objective to secure the necessary education funding package for Philadelphia and all Pennsylvania public school students.



Committee News

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

House Appropriations Committee

06/23/2025, 12:50 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[HB 538](#) – (PN 1946) Amends the Public School Code, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up; and making an editorial change. Includes provisions relating to human trafficking. Defines “human trafficking,” “human trafficking organization,” and “involuntary servitude.” Adds that institutions of higher education and private licensed schools may consult with a human trafficking organization to develop and implement an education program. Adds that the department may consult with a human trafficking organization to develop the online clearinghouse of model education programs and other resources. Outlines the instruction that the human trafficking prevention component of an education program shall provide students with at a minimum, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. Adds the phrase “human trafficking” throughout the act. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 531). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 627](#) – (PN 1947) Amends the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law, providing for Public Safety Resident Communications Pilot Program. Asserts that the program provides grants to law enforcement agencies to support the purchase and implementation of community engagement software. Permits the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law to prescribe the form and manner in which an application may be submitted to receive a grant award. Allows law enforcement agencies to use a grant award under this program to support the purchase and implementation of community engagement software, outlining provisions for the software. Directs that grant money be used to supplement not supplant existing funding. Assets that grants are geographically dispersed. Directs the commission to include performance metrics to measure the progress of grants awarded. Exempts a record created or obtained through the implementation or operation of the program from access under the Right-to-Know Law and deems the record confidential. Adds that any community engagement software procured and implemented under the program shall only be used internally by a law enforcement agency for the improvement of safety of the community, review and improvement of policing services and timely updates on key personnel and case status. Provides definitions for “community engagement software,” “law enforcement agency” and “program.” Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 638). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 811](#) - (PN 1819) The Fraudulent Misrepresentation of a Candidate Prevention Act provides for civil liability for fraudulent misrepresentation of candidates; and imposes penalties. Provides definitions. Removes and provides other definitions. Provides for a person to be liable for fraudulent misrepresentation of a candidate if, within 90 days before an election, the covered person knowingly and intentionally disseminates, or causes to be disseminated, a campaign advertisement that contains a deepfake. Allows for the use of an artificially generated impersonation if the advertisement includes a clear and conspicuous disclosure. Provides additional requirements for the disclosure. Permits an aggrieved person to bring a civil action. Allows for the imposition of a civil penalty for each unique campaign advertisement and each day the advertisement continues to be disseminated. Provides for frivolous actions and defense. Further provides that a covered person may be found liable in a civil action if the covered person or candidate is located within this commonwealth. Revises the act’s applicability. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 841). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 968](#) - (PN 1049) Amends Titles 30 (Fish) and 34 (Game), in fishing licenses, providing for active duty military fishing reciprocity and for disabled veteran annual fishing license reciprocity; and, in hunting and furtaking licenses, providing for active duty military hunting reciprocity and for disabled veteran annual hunting license reciprocity. Permits active duty military with a valid and lawfully issued active duty military fishing license or permit which has been issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the commonwealth and the state under subsection (b) to fish in any of the waters of the commonwealth or in any boundary waters. Lists conditions. Provides reciprocity. Permits disabled veterans with a valid and lawfully issued disabled veteran annual fishing license or permit which has been issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the commonwealth and the state under subsection (b) to fish in any of the waters of the commonwealth or in any boundary waters. Lists conditions. Provides reciprocity. Permits active duty military with a valid and lawfully issued active military hunting license or permit which has been issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the commonwealth and the state under subsection (b) to hunt within the commonwealth. Lists conditions. Provides reciprocity. Permits disabled veterans with a valid and lawfully issued disabled veteran annual hunting license or permit which has been issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the commonwealth and the state under subsection (b) to hunt within the commonwealth. Lists conditions. Provides reciprocity. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1216](#) – (PN 1949) Amends the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, further providing for definitions and for unlawful acts or practices and exclusions. Revises the definitions of “unfair methods of competition” and “unfair or deceptive acts or practices,” as well as “accommodations booking platform.” Defines “food delivery platform,” “homestay platform,” “hotel platform,” “lodging platform,” “primary ticket platform,” “secondary ticket platform” and “ticket.” Makes technical adjustments. Effective in 180 days. (Prior PN: 1364). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1403](#) - (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). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1095](#) – (PN 1948) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in dockets, indices and other records, adding Subchapter C to provide for limited access to eviction information; and requiring the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) to process records. Provides definitions. Establishes a general rule that a court or the AOPC shall not disseminate or post on a website a limited access eviction file that is subject to an order for limited access under section 4334 (relating to procedures). Allows a court to disseminate a limited access eviction file to specified individuals. Requires eviction case information in all cases to be placed under limited access after the sooner of seven years since the filing date of the eviction case, unless otherwise restricted from access, or the adjudication on the merits in favor of the occupant of the premises at issue in the eviction case. Provides that an individual may not be required or asked to disclose information about a limited access eviction file. Applies the eligibility for limited access to eviction case information collected before, on or after the effective date. Prohibits a person from disseminating any information contained in a limited access eviction file. Stipulates that the subsection does not apply to a tenant or other resident in the eviction case. Provides for furnishing information. Permits court orders to limit access. Allows vacating an order to limit access. Establishes disclosure prohibitions for a consumer reporting agency. Permits private causes of action. Provides construction and applicability. Prohibits waivers. Asserts that the Magisterial District Court and prothonotary shall identify all eviction case court files eligible for limited access per section 4332(c) (relating to eviction case limited access), unless the eviction case court file is otherwise restricted from access in accordance with other applicable authority, on a monthly basis. Requires AOPC to quarterly transmit to an entity that regularly collects and disseminates court records a list of any eviction case file for which limited access has been given and to which AOPC has access. Adds that the courts shall identify and complete the processing of records that, on the effective date, are eligible for limited access with the assistance of AOPC and within 365 days of the effective date. Effective in 180 days. (Prior PN: 1190). The bill was **reported as committed** with Reps. Eric Davanzo (R-Westmoreland) and Eric Nelson (R-Westmoreland) voting in the negative.

[HB 1425](#) - (PN 1950) Amends the Tax Reform Code, in tobacco products tax, further providing for definitions, for incidence and rate of tax, for licensing of wholesalers and for licensing of retailers and providing for electronic nicotine delivery system directory. Redefines and provides several definitions. Specifies that a retailer may only purchase tobacco products from a licensed wholesaler. Adds to the requirements for the licensing of wholesalers. Provides provisions for the required surety bond relative to the licensing of wholesalers. Revises the requirements that applicants for a retail license or renewal of that license shall meet. Explains intent for the electronic nicotine delivery system directory. Requires certification and declaration for manufacturers. Lists required contents. Establishes confidentiality. Provides for notification to the Attorney General. Requires the maintenance by the Attorney General to maintain and make available on the Attorney General’s website a directory that lists all manufacturers of electronic cigarettes that contain nicotine, brand names, categories, such as e-liquid, e-liquid cartridge, e-liquid pod or disposable, product names and flavors for which certification forms have been submitted and approved by the Attorney General and shall update the directory at least monthly to ensure accuracy. Provides for compliance. Permits a manufacturer or manufacturer’s electronic cigarette that contains nicotine to be included or retained in the directory under an Attorney General determination and lists applicability. Permits denial by the Attorney General for a manufacturer’s certification. Further provides for surety bonds. Provides for removal from the directory and for product returns. Asserts that electronic cigarettes that contain nicotine not included in the directory under subsection (g) may not be sold for retail sale in the commonwealth either directly or through an importer, distributor, wholesaler, retailer or similar intermediary or intermediaries, outlining what shall apply. Establishes penalties, adding that the Attorney General, an agent, or the department may negotiate the civil penalty for a first offense to an amount sufficient to cover the costs of seizure, storage and disposal of contraband electronic cigarettes that contain nicotine, provided that the retailer demonstrates compliance with removal or proper listing within 30 business days of the violation notice and nothing shall limit the Attorney General or department from seeking the full penalty due, absent an agreement with the violator stating otherwise. Subjects a wholesaler licensee who, after stating that a product not listed in the directory was intended to be sold outside of this commonwealth, is found to have sold the unlisted product to a retailer in this commonwealth, to an additional penalty of \$500 per each unlisted product sold at the retailer. Directs the department to destroy identified contraband and specifies what applies to the cost of destruction. Provides for the Tobacco Products Administration Cash Fund. Outlines provisions for enforcement, violations and compliance. Requires the Attorney General to

maintain, provide via electronic mail to each licensed wholesaler that has provided the Attorney General with a current and valid electronic mail address and publish on its website a tobacco noncompliance database. Provides for an agent for the service of process. Provides for foreign importers and for determination by the Attorney General. Prohibits retailers from purchasing electronic cigarettes that contain nicotine for resale except from a licensed wholesaler operating with a valid license. Permits the promulgation of rules and regulations. Mandates reporting and the publication of the report. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1660). The bill was **reported as committed** with Rep. Nelson voting in the negative.



Senate Appropriations Committee

06/23/2025, 1:35 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[SB 88](#) – (PN 915) Amends the Insurance Company Law, in casualty insurance, repealing provisions relating to coverage for mammographic examinations and breast imaging and adding a section to provide for coverage for mammographic examinations, magnetic resonance imaging and other forms of breast imaging. Mandates a health insurance policy offered, issued or renewed in this commonwealth to provide coverage without cost sharing for mammographic examinations, supplemental breast screenings for a covered person whose risk level for breast cancer is determined to be at least average risk or higher and diagnostic breast examinations for a covered person whose risk level for breast cancer is determined to be at least average risk or higher. Outlines the treatments included in the coverage and the provisions applicable to the coverage. Specifies what nothing in the added section shall be construed as and establishes what shall apply. Adds further definitions. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Scott Martin (R-Lancaster) said the bill would have no fiscal impact on the commonwealth.

[SB 205](#) – (PN 892) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in supplemental funding for municipal highway maintenance, further providing for supplemental funding for municipal highway maintenance; and, in taxes for highway maintenance and construction, further providing for imposition of tax. Permits a county to use money for the construction and maintenance of bridges owned by municipalities in the county. Effective in six months. (Prior PN: 152). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill would have no fiscal impact on the commonwealth.

[SB 527](#) – (PN 500) Amends the Local Tax Enabling Act, further providing for title of act; providing for local taxes in cities of the first class, for prohibition of tax on certain individuals and for reimbursement of taxes; and repealing the Sterling Act and Section 324 of the Taxpayer Relief Act. Authorizes citizens of the first class to levy, assess and collect taxes and prohibits taxes on salaries, wages, commissions or other compensation on certain individuals, including nonresidents employed by a place of business located in a city of the first class. Adds to the duties of the State Treasurer to deduct any taxes imposed by the city on the salary, wage or other compensation paid by the state to the officer or employee and make a return on a form furnished by or obtainable from the revenue commissioner of the city. Authorizes a city of the first class to create offices necessary for the collection of taxes. Provides for penalties and enforcement of nonpayment of taxes and allows for reimbursements. Adds that the taxes shall be credited by the school district of the taxpayer's residence at an amount no greater than the tax on salaries, wages, commissions or other compensations imposed by the school district. Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Community and Economic Development, to promulgate temporary regulation and outlines content requirements. Section 6 is effective immediately. The remainder of this act is effective in 180 days or on January 1, 2026, whichever is later. The bill was **reported as committed**, with Democrats and Sen. Joe Picozzi (R-Philadelphia) voting in the negative.

Chairman Martin said the bill would have no fiscal impact on the commonwealth.

Sen. Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia) said the bill would have a significant fiscal impact on the City of Philadelphia. He argued cuts in city services would have a negative impact on commonwealth funds.

[SB 764](#) – (PN 820) Amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally), in alteration of territory or corporate entity and dissolution, further providing for conduct of referenda and for court review of transitional plan. Does not apply the five-year moratorium on voting the same consolidation or merger question as provided in subsection (b) to a new referendum ordered by a court under section 741(a.1) (relating to court review of transitional plan). Suspends the implementation of a municipality merger when the governing body of one municipality to be merged petitions for the consolidation to be suspended on the basis of fraud, error or material loss that may impact the finances of the petitioning municipality. Requires the court of common pleas to hold a hearing on the petition. Suspends the merger agreement until a new referendum is approved. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill would have no fiscal impact on the commonwealth.

[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 1339](#) – (PN 1869) 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 \$96,006,000 for the salaries, wages and all necessary expenses for the proper operation and administration of PUC. Makes federal appropriations of \$5,110,000 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. (Prior PN: 1828, 1637). 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**.

Chairman Martin noted that HB 1333 through HB 1339 and HB 1420 are annual housekeeping bills providing funding for various non-General Fund agencies. He said the amounts have been agreed to by all parties.

[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 unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A01137](#), by Martin, removes appropriations for skill games administration and skill games operations. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.



Senate Education Committee

06/24/2025, 9:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[SB 877](#) – (PN 977) Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for Barber Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program. Establishes the Barber Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program as a permanent program. Directs each career and technical center and secondary school participating in the program to submit a report no later than June 1 of each year. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 878](#) – (PN 978) Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for Cosmetology Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program. Establishes the Cosmetology Training Through Career and Technical Center Program as a permanent program. Directs each career and technical center and secondary school participating in the program to submit a report no later than June 1 of each year. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 354](#) – (PN 308) The "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" Act provides for "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" guidelines for school entities; and imposes duties on the Department of Education (PDE). Provides definitions. Establishes guidelines for the development and availability generally regarding "What is Your Pennsylvania Story." Requires PDE to develop guidelines in a manner that provides professional educators who teach social studies with the information and strategies to be incorporated into instruction for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 to encourage students to share their stories. Outlines the guidelines for requirements. Allows discretionary content to be included in the guidelines and outlines the criteria. Establishes notice requirements and adds that the act expires at the conclusion of the 2026-2027 school year. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A01269](#), by Culver, directs PDE to disseminate materials to schools rather than guidelines, modifies definitions and amends the expiration date to be June 30, 2027. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Sen. Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland), a member of the America250 Commission, called student involvement in the celebration of America's 250th birthday a "unique opportunity."

[HB 1405](#) – (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. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Brian Munroe (D-Bucks), the bill’s prime sponsor, said HB 1405 will entice veterans to pursue a career in teaching.



House Education Committee

06/24/2025, 10:00 a.m., Room 515, Irvis Office Building

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[HB 938](#) – (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. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Rep. Tim Briggs (D-Montgomery), the bill’s prime sponsor, said the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) board is missing the “voting voice” of faculty and staff. He said faculty input would be very valuable to the board.

Minority Chairman Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) expressed concern over the selection process for new members of the board. He said he enjoys the “healthy tension” of contract negotiations.

Rep. Marc Anderson (R-York) inquired about board participation in collective bargaining agreements. Chairman Peter Schweyer (D-Lehigh) said boards are not typically involved in those negotiations. Rep. Anderson expressed concern over potential conflicts of interest in collective bargaining negotiations. Chairman Schweyer noted that those affected would be asked to recuse themselves during negotiations. Rep. Anderson expressed concern that there was no such language in the bill.

Rep. Milou Mackenzie (R-Northumberland) noted that teachers are not allowed to be members of school boards, arguing that the bill proposed a similar situation.

Rep. Jim Prokopiak (D-Bucks) noted that ethics law requires individuals with a financial interest to recuse themselves during negotiations, arguing that specific language was not required in the bill.

[HB 1536](#) – (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. The bill was **passed over**.

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

[HB 1626](#) – (PN 1968) Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for Barber Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program. Establishes the Barber Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program as a permanent program. Directs each career and technical center and secondary school participating in the program to submit a report no later than June 1 of each year. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1627](#) – (PN 1969) Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for Cosmetology Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program. Establishes the Cosmetology Training Through Career and Technical Center Program as a permanent program. Directs each career and technical center and secondary school participating in the program to submit a report no later than June 1 of each year. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Cutler voiced his support for HB 1626 and HB 1627.

[HB 1539](#) – (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. The bill was unanimously **re-referred** to the House Energy Committee.



Senate State Government Committee

06/24/2025, 10:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider four bills.

[SB 782](#) - (PN 844) Amends Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government), in membership, contributions and benefits, further providing for termination of annuities; in membership, credited service, classes of service, and eligibility for benefits relating to retirement for State employees and officers, further providing for mandatory and optional membership in the system and participation in the plan; and, in benefits, further providing for termination of annuities. Strikes language related to emergency or in an extracurricular position under Section 8346 for the termination of annuities. Outlines the procedures for returning to school services as a police instructor or emergency medical services instructor. Adds an annuitant who is a part-time fire instructor at the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, the Department of Education, a state-owned educational institution, a community college or the Pennsylvania State University who has received certification as a firefighter training instructor from the Pennsylvania Academy to the list of whom the general rule for termination of annuities does not apply. Includes an annuitant who is a part-time instructor teaching a basic police training course or an in-service police training course and an annuitant who is a part-time emergency medical services instructor at any State Employees' Retirement System employer to the list as well. Adds that the services of an annuitant shall not be subject to school employee member contributions to the Public School Employees' Retirement System or eligible for qualification as creditable school service in the Public School Employees' Retirement System and shall not be eligible for participation as a school employee in the School Employees' Defined Contribution Plan or any type of contributions to the contribution plan. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Judy Ward (R-Blair), prime sponsor of the legislation, explained her bill would permit retired state employees in the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) or the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) to work part time as a state certified police, emergency medical service (EMS) or fire instructor without losing their benefits. Sen. Ward

noted that constituents approached her regarding the matter. She remarked that individuals involved in those programs cannot work part-time without having their benefits stopped. She noted that she worked with Rep. Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana) to add police and EMS instructors to the prior iteration of the bill. She emphasized that those individuals could provide instruction to professions that are “vital to safety and well-being of our communities.” She noted the bill does not allow for those individuals to increase their current pension or prevent them from joining another retirement system.

Chairman Cris Dush (R-Jefferson) lauded the bill as a way to help fill gaps in public service.

[SB 460](#) - (PN 394) Amends the Governor and Lieutenant Governor Disability Procedure Law, further providing for incapacity of the governor and lieutenant governor. Requires the governor to transmit to the General Assembly and the lieutenant governor a written declaration that the governor is incapacitated and unable to discharge the powers and duties of the Office of Governor. Requires the lieutenant governor to transmit to the governor and the General Assembly a written declaration that the lieutenant governor is incapacitated and incapable of discharging the powers and duties of the Office of Lieutenant Governor. Replaces language to include that the written declaration must be transmitted to the General Assembly by hand delivery, email or facsimile to the president pro tempore of the Senate, speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader and minority leader of both the House and Senate. Makes editorial changes. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. David Argall (R-Schuylkill), prime sponsor of the bill, noted that the legislation received unanimous support in the prior session. He added the bill includes recommendations that were previously suggested. He pointed out the bill now allows updates to be made via email or fax, rather than telegram.

[SB 784](#) - (PN 808) Amends Title 62 (Procurement), providing for flags made in America. Defines “department” as the Department of General Services. Requires that a flag of the United States or Pennsylvania procured by the department for public display must be produced in the U.S. and constructed from materials sourced from within the U.S. Requires flags produced in the U.S. to include the words “Made in America” on the flag’s identifying label. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin), prime sponsor of the legislation, said his bill is simple but contains a “powerful” message. “If a flag is flying over Pennsylvania schools, courthouses or government buildings, it ought to be made in America,” he said.

[SB 755](#) - (PN 941) Amends the act entitled "An act abolishing numerous State authorities, boards, commissions, committees, councils and representatives; and making related repeals," further providing for State authorities, boards, commissions, committees, councils and representatives abolishment; providing for composition of Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, for transfer of duties and for duty of Secretary of the Commonwealth relating to Interstate Rail Passenger Advisory Council Compact; further providing for repeals; and abrogating the provisions of Executive Order 1980-20, 4 Pa. Code Ch. 1 Subch. EE to the extent of any inconsistency with the addition of section 1(1.3) of the act. Abolishes the Canine Health Board, Climate Change Advisory Committee within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Coastal Zone Advisory Committee within DEP, Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force, Greater Pennsylvania Council, High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Commission, Interagency Coordinating Council, Lobbying Disclosure Regulations Committee, Pennsylvania Civil Disorder Authority, Pennsylvania Dairy Future Commission, Prevailing Wage Advisory Board within the Department of Labor and Industry, Recycling Fund Advisory Committee within DEP and Senior Citizen Advisory Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Outlines the membership of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Establishes terms, vacancies and absences regarding the commission. Requires the commission to elect a member to serve as chairperson. Transfers the duties of the Canine Health Board to the Secretary of Agriculture. Transfers the duties of the Lobbying Disclosure Regulations Committee to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Requires the Secretary of the Commonwealth to give notice to other participating states of the repeal of the act entitled “An act adopting the interstate high speed intercity rail passenger network compact and for related purposes” within 10 days of the effective date and pursuant to Article IV of the Interstate Rail Passenger Advisory Council Compact. Repeals Section 221 of the Dog Law, several provisions of the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act, Article XV-C of the Administrative Code, the act entitled “An act creating a “Greater Pennsylvania Council” for the promotion of the economic, social, industrial, agricultural, educational, civic and recreational welfare of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its citizens; prescribing the organization, powers and duties of said council; and making an appropriation,” the High Speed Intercity Rail Passenger Commission Act, the Pennsylvania Adult and Family Literacy Education Act, 65 Pa.C.S. § 13A10(d)(1), (2), (3) and (4) (relating to registration fees; fund established; system; regulations), Articles III and IV of the Pennsylvania Fair Plan Act, 3 Pa.C.S. Ch. 9 (relating to Pennsylvania Dairy Future Commission), several provisions of the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act, Section 706(e) of the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee Act, Section 6(b) and (d) of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and the act of June 22, 1980 (P.L.259, No.75). Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Democrats voting in the negative.

Sen. Scott Hutchinson, prime sponsor of the bill, explained that good government is comprised of elected officials who enact laws that provide essential services to citizens. He pointed out that some services have outlived their usefulness and now place an undue burden on taxpayers. He pointed out that [Act 92 of 2019](#) identified several state authorities, commissions, boards and advisory

commissions that are no longer effective. He explained his bill proposes to eliminate 14 dispensable government organizations. He added that many of the boards do not have any members, do not prepare reports or no longer meet.

Minority Chairman Steven Santarsiero (D-Bucks) said he agrees on principle, however several of the government organizations deal with relevant information. He noted that the Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force deals with an ongoing issue. He suggested the committee could recommend that some of the organizations revitalize themselves with new members. He added that he does not wish to add more appointees by the General Assembly because it offsets the balance of powers between the legislature and executive.

Sen. Ward lauded the legislation as a “good bill.” She pointed out that if the organizations haven’t met, “it can’t be that important.”

Chairman Santarsiero said he was unaware of some of the organizations but suggested the committee question why they haven’t met.

[SB 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**.

Chairman Dush provided an overview of the conveyances.



House Appropriations Committee

06/24/2025, 11:40 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

[HB 583](#) - (PN 1978) Amends the Human Services Code, in public assistance, further providing for reimbursement for certain medical assistance items and services; and abrogating regulations. Requires the department to establish a benefit package for dental services for medical assistance recipients 21 years of age or older and revise the package for dental services by publication of a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, with the package taking effect as specified in the notice. Requires the department to seek a state plan amendment or federal waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, if needed, to allow the medical assistance program to provide coverage for dental services in accordance with this section. Mandates what the package shall include. Adds that notwithstanding subsection (h), if adequate funding is not available to include all dental services provided prior to the dental benefit package, the department may offer fewer dental benefit services than what was provided prior to the dental benefit package changes until available funding is provided to meet the requirements, stipulating that this shall not be construed to allow for the limitation or elimination of any dental benefit services provided under 41 PA.B.5133 (Sept. 24, 2011). Section 2 of this act

shall take effect immediately following publication of the notice under section 3 of this act. The remainder of this act is effective immediately. (Prior PN: 593). The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Minority Chairman Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana) said his caucus is concerned about the challenges the bill would introduce in the final week of the fiscal year regarding current Medicaid costs and the potential for enrollment fee increases.

[HB 17](#) - (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. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 928](#) - (PN 1979) Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in epinephrine auto-injector entities, further providing for definitions and for epinephrine auto-injectors for authorized entities; and making an editorial change. Replaces auto-injectors with delivery systems throughout the act. Revises the definitions of “administer,” “authorized entity” and “epinephrine delivery system.” Adds a definition for “day-care center.” Requires a day care facility to acquire and stock a supply of epinephrine delivery systems pursuant to an issued prescription, subject to funding being specifically designated to the department. Provides for the storage of epinephrine delivery and for authorized entities and day care facilities. Includes day care facilities throughout the act. Requires training to be conducted in English, Spanish and any other languages deemed appropriate by the department. Details training content. Requires the development of informational materials for day care facilities. Effective in 180 days. (Prior PN: 1833, 992). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 994](#) - (PN 1078) Amends Title 34 (Game), in game or wildlife protection, prohibiting the purchase, sale, offer for sale or possession with intent to sell covered animal parts or products; and imposing penalties. Provides that no person may purchase, sell, offer to sell or possess with intent to sell any item that the person knows or should know is a covered animal part or product. Provides for exceptions. Asserts that the Pennsylvania Game Commission may permit the purchase, sale, offer for sale or possession with intent to sell a covered animal part or product for educational or scientific purposes by a bona fide educational or scientific institution if the covered animal part or product was legally acquired. Provides for presumption of possession with intent to sell. Provides for penalties. Asserts that the commission may seize a covered animal part or product involved in a violation. Directs the commission to promulgate necessary regulations. Provides for definitions. Effective in six months. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1318](#) - (PN 1511) Amends Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns), in associations and organizations, further providing for county and regional associations of boroughs. Permits a borough to annually appropriate funds for the support of the county or regional association of boroughs. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1347](#) - (PN 1535) The Tourism Improvement District Act provides for establishment of tourism improvement districts (TIDs), for governance of tourism improvement districts, for establishment of tourism improvement district management associations, for duties of tourism improvement district management associations, for termination of tourism improvement districts and for annual audit of tourism improvement district management associations. Provides several definitions. Permits a benefited business to petition and present a preliminary plan to a county to establish a TID in the county. Requires specific procedures. Allows a benefited business to file an objection to a preliminary plan. Details required contents of a preliminary plan. Requires public hearings for amendments and the submission of a final plan. Authorizes a county to establish multiple TIDs within a county’s boundaries and may impose a special assessment fee within the geographic boundaries of a TID for the purpose of providing tourism activities as specified in the final plan. Permits acquisitions and establishes a duration for a TID. Mandates the creation of tourism improvement district management associations (TIDMAs). Provides applicability. Establishes TIDMA duties. Permits requests for termination. Requires annual audit by TIDMAs. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1406](#) - (PN 1980) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in theft and related offenses, further providing for grading of theft offenses. Adds that theft constitutes a felony of the second degree if the theft or attempted theft involves the title, deed or writing related to an interest in real property, regardless of the value. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1609). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1442](#) - (PN 1877) Amends Title 16 (Counties), in coroner, further providing for coroner’s investigation and providing for sudden unexpected death in epilepsy. Revises coroner’s duties in determination of cause of death to include an autopsy or inquest to be conducted in cases regarding a sudden unexplained death in a person diagnosed with epilepsy. Requires an investigation conducted by a coroner in this commonwealth to include an inquiry to determine whether the death of the deceased individual was a direct result of a seizure or epilepsy. Further provides for coroner duties, amending language from autopsy to investigation. Establishes applicability. Defines “sudden unexpected death in epilepsy” or “SUDEP,” adding “structural causes” to the definition of SUDEP. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1689). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1590](#) - (PN 1852) Amends the Human Services Code, in public assistance, providing for abrogation of regulatory requirements for payment for clinic services within physical confines of clinic facilities. Abrogates section 1153.14(6) (relating to noncovered services) and section 1223.14(11) (relating to noncovered services) of 55 Pa. Code (relating to human services) to the extent they limit medical assistance payments only for clinic services provided within the physical confines of a clinic facility. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Regarding HB 17, HB 928, HB 994, HB 1318, HB 1347, HB 1406, HB 1442 and HB 1590, Chairman Struzzi said the bills do not represent a significant impact on the General Fund.



Senate Appropriations Committee

06/24/2025, 1:40 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[SB 64](#) - (PN 917) Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in military leave of absence, further providing for military family relief assistance; in veteran-owned small businesses, providing for veteran-owned business logotype; and imposing a penalty. Details the use of money for military family relief assistance. Defines “military family relief assistance fund.” Redefines “veteran-owned business.” Provides specifications for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) regarding the logotype creation for veteran-owned businesses. Requires DMVA to develop an application for veteran-owned businesses to apply to use the logotype in subsection (a) no later than 90 days prior to the effective date of this section and to be published on DMVA’s public website. Requires DMVA to develop criteria guidelines, published on DMVA’s website, in order to establish a veteran-owned status of business applying for the logotype. Allows DMVA to provide space on the application for a voluntary contribution amount in the Military Family Relief Assistance Fund. Requires establishing a fee for the use and display of the logotype. Stipulates that the fee shall not exceed \$250, and the fees collected are to be deposited into the fund. Mandates DMVA to post a notice with specified information within 90 days of the logotype creation. Mandates DMVA to decide and notify applicants of approval within 60 days of application submission. Requires collaboration with other departments and the development of a publicly accessible online database listing of veteran-owned businesses that have been awarded the official logo. Provides penalties. Deposits fines collected into the Military Family Relief Assistance Fund. Details what the department shall use the money in the fund to pay for. Requires DMVA to develop a report regarding veteran-owned businesses approved to use the logotypes and applications received and submit the report to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees. Allows DMVA to develop a policy statement in order to implement this section. Effective September 1, 2026, or immediately, whichever is later. (Prior PN: 25, 509). The bill was **reported as amended** with Minority Chairman Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia) and Sens. Amanda Cappelletti (D-Montgomery), Tim Kearney (D-Delaware), Patty Kim (D-Dauphin) and Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) voting in the negative.

[A01114](#), by Martin, makes an editorial change, striking out “9622(L)” and replacing it with “9622(j).” The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Chairman Scott Martin (R-Lancaster) said the bill’s enactment would see a first-year start-up cost of \$24,000.

[SB 101](#) - (PN 55) Amends the Workforce Development Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in local workforce development areas and regions and local workforce development boards, further providing for plan, functions and responsibilities and providing for technical assistance and data availability and for local performance accountability. Provides definitions for “aggregated statistical form,” “application for benefits,” “data dashboard” and “new hire database.” Directs local workforce development boards to utilize information from the Department of Labor and Industry when developing plans. Allows boards to submit a request to the department for exemptions. Provides for technical assistance and data availability. Permits the department to conduct performance reviews of local workforce development boards. Provides for the disclosure of unemployment compensation information to the CEO of the board along with any other federal, state or local government agency. Provides for allowable uses of disclosed information. Provides for confidentiality and protection of information. Directs the department to develop a written agreement with each local workforce development board in the commonwealth. Prohibits the use of federal unemployment insurance grant funds to be used to pay for disclosure of requested information. Provides for calculation of costs. Effective in six months. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A00965](#), by Martin, provides for priority of funding and defines “department.” The amendment was **adopted** with Chairman Hughes and Sens. Cappelletti, Kearney, Kim and Costa voting in the negative.

[SB 375](#) - (PN 934) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, repealing provisions relating to CPR instruction; in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program; and, in school health services, further providing for definitions, repealing provisions relating to automatic external defibrillators, providing for AED and CPR instruction and procedure, establishing the Automated External Defibrillator Program and providing for availability and specifications of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Asserts the School Safety and Security Fund may use grants to provide AEDs and training. Provides additional details regarding the percentage of money appropriated to the fund in that fiscal year that must go toward AEDs and training. Requires any uncommitted moneys to be returned to the fund by September 30 of each succeeding fiscal year. Defines “automated external defibrillator.” Requires each school entity and nonpublic school to make available instructions on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED usage to its employees and volunteers on school property at least once every two years, with additional details. Outlines requirements for AED locations and training. Provides continuing education requirements. Requires completion of training under this section to be recorded with specified details. Requires the Department of Education (PDE), in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), to develop guidelines and materials to assist school entities and nonpublic schools in developing a cardiac emergency response plan with additional information. Provides additional definitions. Provides a procedure for a biennial bid for the cost of AEDs and other equipment and necessary supplies. Provides requirements of eligibility to obtain, purchase or loan AEDs under the program. Asserts that the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. § 8331.2 apply to school entities and nonpublic school employees who render care with an AED. Allows PDE to offer discounts or loans for AEDs as necessary. Asserts that AED purchases are considered an allowable use of Pennsylvania Accountability Grants under section 2599.2(b), as well as an innovative educational program under Article XX-B and an eligible school safety and security expense in section 1306-B(j). Allows PDE to accept donations under this section with specified requirements. Outlines content requirements for reports under this section. Allows PDE to adopt other guidelines as necessary to implement this section. Requires school entities and nonpublic schools that participate in interscholastic athletics to have an AED readily accessible. Prohibits this section from being construed as establishing any liability against a school entity or nonpublic school or its officers or employees. Requires school entities and nonpublic schools to ensure each AED is properly tested and maintained. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 912). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill’s enactment would have no fiscal impact on commonwealth funds.

[SB 398](#) - (PN 345) Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in games of chance, providing for online raffles by fire companies. Permits online raffles by fire companies. Provides an expiration date of December 31, 2026. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill’s enactment would have no fiscal impact on commonwealth funds.

[SB 416](#) - (PN 403) Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in games of chance, providing for payment; and abrogating a regulation. Directs that a licensed eligible organization may accept payment via credit card, debit card, mobile payment services or other electronic payment method for the purchase of a raffle ticket. Adds that a licensee under Chapter 9 may not accept mobile payment services for the playing of games of chance. Defines “mobile payment service.” Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill’s enactment would have no fiscal impact on commonwealth funds.

[SB 432](#) - (PN 935) Amends the Public School Code, in the State System of Higher Education, providing for educational opportunities for foster and adopted children. Requires an institution to provide each eligible nonresident student who enrolls with a fostering independence waiver for undergraduate courses beginning with the semester starting in fall 2025. Provides eligibility requirements for the fostering independence waiver, including an individual having experienced foster care at 16 years of age or older or, after attaining 16 years of age, exited foster care to adoption or permanent legal custodianship. Stipulates the fostering independence waiver shall be available for up to five years, whether or not consecutive, or until the individual reaches 26 years of age, whichever occurs first. Requires annual reporting. Defines “fostering independence waiver.” Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 399). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill’s enactment would have no significant impact on commonwealth funds.

[SB 583](#) - (PN 590) 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. Authorizes the Governor to execute the compact. Explains the purpose of the compact. Provides several definitions. Establishes eligibility requirements for a state to participate in the compact and requirements to maintain membership in the compact. Provides designation of social work categories. Permits the home state to charge a fee for granting a multistate license. Establishes eligibility requirements for social worker participation in the compact.

Subjects a multistate license for regulated social workers to that member state's regulatory authority. Provides for the issuance of a multistate license. Establishes authority for the interstate compact commission and member state licensing authorities. Asserts that a licensee can hold a multistate license, issued by their home state, in only one member state at any given time. Provides for the licensee changing their home state. Stipulates that an active military member or their spouse shall designate a home state where the individual has a multistate license and the individual may retain their home state designation during the period the service member is on active duty. Provides for adverse actions. Establishes the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission. Provides for commission membership, voting, meeting procedures and financing of the commission. Establishes qualified immunity, defense and indemnification for the members, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of the commission. Requires the development, maintenance, operation, and utilization of a coordinated data system. Authorizes the commission to promulgate reasonable rules to effectively and efficiently implement and administer the purposes and provisions of the compact. Provides oversight, dispute resolution and enforcement. Establishes effective date, withdrawal and amendment. Provides construction and severability, and for conflict with other state laws. Requires notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill's enactment would result in a cost between \$200,000 to \$225,000 for upgrades to the licensing system.

[SB 604](#) - (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, bringing 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. The bill was **passed over**.

[SB 733](#) - (PN 785) Amends the Public School Code, in higher education accountability and transparency, further providing for exit counseling. Requires each institution of higher education that receives information regarding Federal education loans or other student loans that may require repayment for a student enrolled at the institution of higher education shall make financial aid counseling available to each student at the end of the student's final academic term, unless the individual selects not to participate. Directs an institution to attempt to make financial aid counseling available for students who transfer or withdraw, unless the student has Federal education loans or other student loans known to the institution of higher education that do not require repayment. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **passed over**.

[SB 766](#) - (PN 823) Amends the Human Services Code, in departmental powers and duties as to licensing, adding Subarticle E to provide for child care center attendance eligibility. Establishes attendance eligibility, specifying the conditions that need to be met for 55 Pa. Code Ch. 3270 (relating to child care centers) to not apply to a part-day school-age program. Defines "part-day school-age program." Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A01172](#), by Martin, changes the effective date from 60 days to immediately. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Chairman Martin said the bill's enactment would have no fiscal impact on commonwealth funds.

[SB 780](#) - (PN 837) Amends Title 68 (Real and Personal Property), in uses of property, adding Chapter 57 to provide for encampments. Provides definitions. Prohibits unauthorized encampments. Provides for the consent of the owner. Establishes enforcement procedures. Asserts that the owner of property on which an unauthorized encampment is located has a duty to eject the encampment through legal proceedings or by seeking the assistance of a law enforcement agency within 30 days of the receipt of a notice under subsection (a)(2) and a failure to comply with the duty under subsection (b) or section 5702(b)(1) or (2) (relating to unauthorized encampments prohibited) is a violation of this chapter. Permits a private cause of action. Provides for physical removal. Outlines what a municipality must do prior to a removal. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Democrats voting in the negative.

Chairman Martin said the bill's enactment may result in incurring costs for municipalities.

Sen. Jarrett Coleman (R-Lehigh) thanked the maker of the bill and provided an example of an encampment in his district where an individual "defecated in front of children."

Sen. Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia) voiced opposition to the bill and cited his late uncle and former senator, Milton Street, who in 1978 pitched a tent on the Capitol grounds in protest of the office arrangements he was given.

[SB 838](#) - (PN 904) Amends the Private Licensed Schools Act, further providing for definitions. Expands definition of "private licensed school," to include the phrase, "a school or provider approved by the State Real Estate Commission or the State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers." Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill's enactment would have no fiscal impact on commonwealth funds.

[SB 842](#) - (PN 914) Amends the Dental Law, further providing for definitions, for general powers of the State Board of Dentistry, for penalties and for restricted faculty license. Extends the duration of practice of dentistry in a clinical continuing education course to one year. Adds a clinical facility owned and operated by a dental school or affiliated academic health care center when the clinical facility or affiliated academic health care center is not operated for the profit of the dental school or any affiliated third party under the definition of "restricted faculty license." Requires the board to perform individualized assessments in assessing moral character. Adds facilities owned or operated by a dental school, an affiliated academic health care center or a dental school-owned faculty practice throughout the language of the bill. Outlines additional criteria for restricted faculty licenses. Removes the limitations on restricted faculty licenses. Makes technical and editorial changes. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill's enactment would have no fiscal impact on commonwealth funds.

[HB 257](#) - (PN 203) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, further providing for learners' permits and for examination of applicant for driver's license. Requires a minor applicant to present to the department a certification form signed by a parent or guardian stating the minor applicant has viewed educational materials relating to unsafe driving in work zones as well as including in the application examination at least one question relating to the driver's ability to understand how to drive safely in a work zone. Adds that the driver's manual shall include a section relating to how to drive safely in a work zone, along with related penalties. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Martin said the bill's enactment would have minimal fiscal impact on commonwealth funds.



House Education Committee

06/25/2025, 11:30 a.m., Room 515, Irvis Office Building

By Zoe Buchmann, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider one bill.

[SB 246](#) – (PN 764) Amends the Public School Code, in student supports, adding a section to provide for parental and employee notification of certain incidents. Replaces the language of section 1303.2 A regarding parental and employee notification of weapon incidents, outlining the requirements for parental and employee notification of certain incidents. Adds that if an incident involves the

possession of a weapon or damage to school property and occurs at a school building, notification may be limited. Requires notification of school employees and parents and guardians of the students involved in an incident as outlined in subsection (A)(2) and (3). Asserts that the school entity's, nonpublic school's or private school's notification to parents or guardians or school employees under this section shall not contain personally identifiable information about a student in compliance with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (relating to family educational and privacy rights), providing exceptions. Inserts nonpublic school and private school throughout the language of the act. Defines "nonpublic school," "school entity," "school property" and strikes the definition of "private school." Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 199, 752). The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

A01322, by Schweyer, specifies that a second and each subsequent violation of a school entity, nonpublic school or private school's bullying policy by a student requires notification; specifies that intentional and significant damage to property in excess of \$1,000 requires notification; and defines "weapon" in the legislation. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Minority Chairman Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) noted that this is an agreed to amendment by the Senate and the prime sponsor, Sen. Jarrett Coleman (R-Lehigh), and urged his members to vote yes on the amendment.

Chairman Peter Schweyer (D-Lehigh) agreed, stating that he has been in communication with Sen. Coleman on the amendment.

Rep. Barbara Gleim (R-Cumberland) asked if a violation of the bullying policy under the amendment would change anything regarding uploading the incident to the Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS). Chairman Schweyer answered that the amendment does not make any changes to that. Rep. Gleim asked if that would then fall under notification specifically or if it does not touch that provision. Chairman Schweyer reiterated that the amended notification requirement does not touch the PIMS requirements.



House Appropriations Committee

06/25/2025, 6:10 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

SB 95 - (PN 1012) Amends the Pharmacy Act, further providing for definitions to define "EMS provider" and "dose package," for licensing of pharmacists and for unlawful acts; and providing for price disclosure. Adds that the board may, for a period of 180 days from the effective date, issue a provisional license to practice pharmacy to an applicant for licensure by endorsement under 63 P.A.C.S. § 3111 (relating to licensure by endorsement) who holds a current license to practice pharmacy issued by another state or territory of the U.S., outlining what that provision is subject to. Provides for an EMS provider to distribute a dose package unless a standing order issued by the Department of Health allows for the purchase of naloxone or a dose package by the public without a prescription; the EMS provider determines that it is appropriate to distribute a dose package to a family member, a friend or another individual who is in a position to assist a patient who has experienced an opioid-related overdose event, based on the immediate circumstances surrounding the event or other conditions, including the availability and accessibility of a pharmacy; the EMS provider enters the date and contents of the dose package under subclause (ii) on the back of the dose package or on another appropriate, uniformly maintained and readily retrievable record; and the EMS provider provides only one dose package under subclause (ii) and the quantity of that dose package conforms with the prescribed directions for use. Specifies that the distribution of the dose package shall be voluntary on the part of the EMS provider and outlines what shall apply. Outlines what a pharmacist shall, upon request, disclose for every prescription medication that a consumer intends to purchase. Requires a pharmacy to keep an electronic or paper copy of this section on file, including any regulations issued under this section. Revises provisions to specify that the board shall provide a copy of this section, any regulations issued under this section and the notice required under this subsection in a manner of the board's choosing. Provides several definitions. Sections 9.6(e) and (f) are effective immediately. The amendment of sections 2 and 8 is effective in 60 days. The remainder of the act is effective in one year. (Prior PN: 918, 50). The bill was **passed over**.

HB 1100 - (PN 1176) Amends the Human Services Code, in public assistance, providing for waiver to purchase diapers or menstrual hygiene products. Provides for a waiver to purchase diapers or menstrual hygiene products if the Food and Nutrition Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture creates and makes one available to the states. Requires the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study to review the costs to the state of the implementation of the waiver and establishes reporting

requirements. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

[HB 1650](#) - (PN 1972) The Pennsylvania Home Preservation Act provides for the Pennsylvania Home Preservation Grant Program; and imposes duties on the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Provides definitions. Establishes the program in DCED to provide grants to local governments to improve the existing housing stock in this commonwealth. Outlines eligible applicants and eligible uses. Stipulates that expenditures by a local government or subgrantee may not exceed \$50,000 per unit and must be used to address habitability concerns, improve energy or water efficiency, make units accessible or fund repairs for unit owners whose household income does not exceed 80-120% of the area median income. Permits a local government to apply to DCED for a grant on an application form as prescribed by DCED, which shall be posted on DCED's website, specifying what the application form shall contain. Requires DCED to review and approve grant applications. Provides that grants under the program shall be made from funds appropriated by the General Assembly and other federal or state funds DCED may receive, allowing DCED to use up to 3% of funds appropriated for the administration of the program. Establishes limitations. Effective in 30 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

[HB 414](#) - (PN 390) Amends Titles 23 (Domestic Relations) and 51 (Military Affairs), enacting the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act; repealing Section 4109 and 4110 of Title 51 in their entirety; and making editorial changes. Adds that there are additional provisions applicable to child custody matters involving military personnel. Establishes Chapter 46 related to uniform deployed parents custody and visitation. Provides definitions. Establishes that a court may issue an order regarding custodial responsibility if the court has jurisdiction. Provides for orders of temporary custodial responsibility, orders of custodial responsibility, actions in other states and for temporary emergency jurisdiction. Allows the court to issue a temporary custodial agreement for a child whose parent is deployed, stipulating that the deployed parent must give notice in a record of pending deployment within 72 hours of deployment notice, unless circumstances prevent timely notice, and provide a plan for shared custodial responsibility as well as change of the child's legal address during deployment. Adds that in a proceeding for custodial responsibility, a court may not consider a parent's past deployment or possible future deployment in itself in determining the best interest of the child but may consider any significant impact on the best interest of the child of the parent's past or possible future deployment. Provides for agreements addressing custodial responsibility during deployment, allowing for parents to enter an agreement granting temporary custodial responsibility during deployment. Outlines the formation of the agreement and the content requirements. Establishes that the nature of the authority created by the agreement is temporary and terminates after the deploying parent returns. Allows for the modification or termination of the agreement. Authorizes that a deploying parent, by power of attorney, may delegate all or part of custodial responsibilities to an adult family member or spouse for the duration of the deployment if the parent has sole legal custody or a court order currently in effect prohibits contact between the child and the other parent. Establishes notice requirements. Requires a copy of the agreement to be filed within a reasonable time with the court that issues an order regarding custodial responsibilities. Provides for the judicial procedure for granting custodial responsibility during deployment. Outlines the proceedings for an order, allows for expedited hearings and testimony by electronic means as well as outlines failure to appear cannot be justified by deployment alone. Provides for the effect of prior judicial order or agreement. Authorizes the granting of caretaking authority to a nonparent, specifies the duration and outlines the requirements. Allows courts to grant legal custody to nonparents if the deploying parent is unable to exercise the scope of legal custody they were awarded. Authorizes courts to grant limited contact to nonparents. Outlines the nature of authority created by a court order. Outlines content requirements of an order. Provides for child support orders and for modifying or terminating grant of custodial responsibility to nonparent. Outlines the procedure for terminating custodial responsibility via agreement and when a termination agreement is absent. Outlines the consent procedure for terminating custodial responsibility granted by a court order. Provides for visitation before termination of the grant of custodial responsibility. Provides for the termination by operation of law of custodial responsibility granted by court order. Provides that the chapter may supersede the provisions of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. Adds that the chapter does not affect the validity of any court order or agreement concerning custodial responsibilities during deployment which was issued or entered into before the effective date. Effective in 30 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 593](#) - (PN 2028) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in abandoned vehicles and cargos, further providing for notice to owner and lienholders of abandoned vehicles, for authorization for disposal of unclaimed vehicles and for processing of nonrepairable or salvage vehicles. Adds that notices to owners and lienholders of abandoned vehicles must be sent within 10 business days upon receipt of an abandoned vehicle information report. Adds that notices of publication must be published within 10 business days of the date that the department determines a registered owner and lienholders cannot be determined with reasonable certainty or after receipt of a written statement from the holder of the vehicle. Permits a salvor to publish an electronic copy of the notice on the website of the newspaper or any other website that has the primary purpose of posting advertisements or notices. Provides for if written notice is not timely published in a newspaper. Directs the department to process the authorization for the disposal of the abandoned vehicle within 10 business days of the receipt of the written statement from the holder of the vehicle. Requires the department to approve or deny applications for a certificate of salvage within 10 business days of receipt of the application. Requires the department to review reports within 10 business days of receipt. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 601). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1626](#) - (PN 1968) Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for Barber Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program. Establishes the Barber Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program as a permanent program. Directs each career and technical center and secondary school participating in the program to submit a report no later than June 1 of each year. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1627](#) - (PN 1969) Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for Cosmetology Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program. Establishes the Cosmetology Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program as a permanent program. Directs each career and technical center and secondary school participating in the program to submit a report no later than June 1 of each year. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 78](#) - (PN 34) An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 67586, located over the South Branch of Bear Run on State Route 1053 in Banks Township, Indiana County, as the PFC John Tabacsko Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 89](#) - (PN 945) Amends the Overdose Mapping Act, further providing for definitions and for establishment and design; and adding section 4.1 to provide for entry requirements for EMS providers. Redefines "authorized users." Defines "EMS provider." Redefines "information technology platform" and adds the inclusion of patient care reports data collection system as outlined under 35 PA. C.S. CH. 81 utilized by an EMS provider in accordance with section 4.1. Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to coordinate with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) to ensure prompt transfer into the overdose information network of overdose information that was entered by an EMS provider under section 4.1(1) into an information technology platform other than the overdose information network. Establishes that an EMS provider who encounters a known or suspected overdose shall access an information technology platform to report and document the incident per subsection (b) within 72 hours of the overdose. Asserts DOH and PSP will ensure that reports from multiple authorized users regarding the same incident are identified as such. Provides report contents for EMS providers who are providing or are required to provide emergency medical services on behalf of an EMS agency or who encounter a known or suspected overdose. Provides exceptions. Effective in six months. (Prior PN: 44). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 109](#) - (PN 62) Amends the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, defining "groin structure" and establishing that the department may charge a license fee not to exceed \$250 for a person to construct, repair, replace, operate, maintain or remove a groin structure at the licensed premises. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 129](#) - (PN 1013) Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, further providing for advisory councils for veterans' homes. Requires an advisory council to provide stakeholders with a means to advise the adjutant general on the resident care, management, operations and compliance of facilities and services in veterans' homes to ensure high-quality health care and well-being for residents of veterans' homes. Includes the adjutant general's designee as a member of an advisory council. Removes the provision of 12 members being appointed by the governor from a list of nominations submitted to the adjutant general by the Pennsylvania War Veterans' Council. Specifies that 10 members shall be appointed by the governor from a list of nominations submitted to the adjutant general by the Pennsylvania War Veterans' Council and shall be veterans from the local community of the veterans' home. Requires three members to be appointed by the governor from a list of nominations submitted to the adjutant general by current residents of the veterans' home and shall include a family member of a current or former resident of the veterans' home. Directs the department to designate a subject matter expert to attend advisory council meetings to provide input. Establishes the terms of office and officers for council members. Provides that six members of a council shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the council. Requires annual reporting. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 78). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 232](#) - (PN 185) Amends Title 30 (Fish), in fishing licenses, further providing for disabled veterans and former prisoners of war and for deployed Pennsylvania National Guard members and repealing provisions relating to reserve component of armed forces members. Repeals general rules provisions for disabled veterans. Provides the disability is service-connected. Requires documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Revises eligibility requirements for a lifetime license. Includes licenses for reserve component of armed forces members. Repeals section 2707.2 of Title 30. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 255](#) - (PN 207) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in sentencing, further providing for sexual offenses and tier system. Adds 18 Pa.C.S. § 3124.3 (relating to sexual assault by sports official, volunteer or employee of nonprofit association) to be classified as a Tier II sexual offense. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 302](#) - (PN 762) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in protection from abuse, further providing for commencement of proceedings. Adds that \$25 shall be forwarded to an appropriate law enforcement agency that serves the defendant with the order and that \$25 shall be retained by the county, replaces language related to the distribution of the \$25, requiring the \$25 to be distributed to the sheriff, who shall forward the amount to the entity that performed the service of the petition and order or retain the

amount if the sheriff performed the service of the petition and order. Replaces the Department of Public Welfare with the Department of Human Services. Removes the provision providing for the court to adopt means of service. Revises the provision providing for service by sheriff to provide for service and to assert that the court shall adopt a means of prompt and effective service and order that the sheriff or appropriate law enforcement agency serve the petition and order. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 236). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 411](#) - (PN 944) Amends the Stroke System of Care Act, further providing for definitions; providing for statewide stroke registry; and making an editorial change. Defines "thrombectomy-capable stroke center." Makes editorial changes throughout the act. Directs the Department of Health to ensure access to a statewide stroke registry. Permits the department to contract with a nationally recognized, evidence-based organization. Directs the department to update the registry on a biannual basis. Provides that each comprehensive stroke center, thrombectomy-capable stroke center, primary stroke center and acute stroke-ready hospital shall, on a biannual basis, submit data to the department concerning stroke care for inclusion in the statewide stroke registry, as determined by the Secretary of Health on and after Jan. 1, 2026, or 180 days after the effective date, whichever is later. Provides for data access by the department. Permits the department to enter a contract with a nationally recognized, evidence-based organization for the receipt, storage, holding, updating or maintenance of the data or files under department control and management. Permits the department to enter into reciprocal reporting agreements with the appropriate agencies of other states to exchange stroke care data. Provides for confidentiality. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 370, 510). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 466](#) - (PN 485) Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in commonwealth services, further providing for powers and duties and for curriculum, training and education certification management system; in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies, further providing for award of grants to fire companies and for award of grants to emergency medical services companies and providing for expiration of authority; and repealing Section 1735-E of the Fiscal Code. Imposes on the agency the power and duty to provide semiannual reports of all grants awarded by the agency from federal disaster assistance or relief funds, homeland security and defense funds, avian flu/pandemic preparedness or other public health emergency funds to the chairperson and minority chairperson of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees which include information relating to the entity receiving grant money from the agency entities that received an award. Requires reports to be submitted by Aug. 20 for grants awarded during the period from Jan. 1 through June 30 and by Feb. 20 for grants awarded during the period from July 1 through Dec. 31. Adds that an individual who successfully completes fire suppression training as a condition of employment may provide a letter or certificate stating the number of hours of training completed to the Office of the State Fire Commissioner for approval to count towards the required number of hours of instruction needed to obtain a Firefighter I certification. Adds exceptions to the applications and written instructions for grants provided by the commissioner, allowing the commissioner to extend the application period for up to 45 additional days and to extend the period to submit required reports for 15 additional days upon request by a fire company or an EMS company. Expires the authority of the commissioner to award grants under Subchapters B (relating to fire company grant program) and C (relating to emergency medical services grant program) on Dec. 31, 2029. The amendment of 35 P.A.C.S. § 7383.1(B) is effective in 60 days. The remainder of this act is effective immediately. (Prior PN: 418). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 518](#) - (PN 1014) Amends Title 34 (Game), in Pennsylvania Game Commission, further providing for organization of commission; in game or wildlife protection, further providing for report to commission officer, for surrender of carcass to commission officer, for unlawful activities and for killing game or wildlife to protect person; and, in hunting and furtaking, further providing for investigation and seizure of game or wildlife. Adds that the governor shall ensure that at least one member appointed to the commission represents the interest of agricultural commodities that pertain to normal agricultural operations and wildlife. Defines "agricultural commodity" and "normal agricultural operation." Includes the sex of the species and the location of each carcass in the report that a person shall provide to an officer of the commission. Requires the commission to establish a self-reporting system that allows a person assigned to remove deer for crop damage purposes to report each harvest to an officer of the commission via a toll-free number, online application or website. Adds delivering to a processor for final disposition to surrender of a carcass, defining the term "processor." Removes language regarding the refusal to answer any pertinent question related to the killing or wounding of any game or wildlife killed or wounded, or the disposition of the entire carcass or any part thereof under § 2126 regarding unlawful activities, under § 2141 related to killing game or wildlife to protect person and under § 2313 related to investigation and seizure of game or wildlife. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 481). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 649](#) - (PN 920) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in forgery and fraudulent practices, adding a section to provide for the offense of digital forgery. Defines the offense of digital forgery. Establishes grading for the offense of digital forgery. Specifies that the added section shall not apply to a constitutionally protected activity, a law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of their duties, a provider or developer of any technology used in the creation of a visual representation or audio recording or any information service, system or access software provider that providers or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server. Asserts that it is an affirmative defense to prosecution that the defendant took reasonable action to place viewers or listeners of the forged digital likeness on notice that the forged digital likeness was not genuine. Stipulates that this section shall not be construed to restrict the ability of a person to detect, prevent, respond to or protect against security incidents, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activities or any illegal activity, preserve the integrity or security of systems or investigate, report

or prosecute persons responsible for the action. Defines “forged digital likeness.” Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 705). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 719](#) - (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). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.



Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO2413 - Pennsylvania Prosperity Plan

Sponsor

Rep. James B. Struzzi (R)

Summary

Establishes a plan aimed at stimulating economic growth in the commonwealth.

Intro Date

06/24/2025

Last Action

06/24/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2433 - Relieving Social Worker Shortages

Sponsor

Rep. Kristine C. Howard (D)

Summary

Aims to create the Social Worker Educational Enrollment and Training (SWEET) Pilot Program, which will provide stipends to graduate students completing internships as a requisite of an accredited Master's of Social Work program, allowing more students to pursue work.

Intro Date

06/25/2025

Last Action

06/25/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2442 - In-State Tuition Fairness Act

Sponsor

Rep. Gregory Scott (D)

Summary

Considers creating the In-State Tuition Fairness Act to grant any person who has been a resident of Pennsylvania for at least 12 months in-state tuition, regardless of immigration status.

Intro Date

06/26/2025

Last Action

06/26/2025 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

06/24/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

06/24/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

06/24/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/24/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

06/25/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

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

06/24/2025 H - Discussed at the SNAPA Press Conference

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

06/23/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

06/23/2025 S - Third consideration and final passage

06/24/2025 H - Signed in House

06/24/2025 S - Signed in Senate

HB354 - An Act providing for "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" guidelines for school entities; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

Sponsor

Rep. Jared G. Solomon (D)

Summary

(PN 2000) The "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" Act provides for "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" guidelines for school entities; and imposes duties on the Department of Education (PDE). Provides definitions and establishes the act's purpose. Outlines student objectives. Directs PDE to develop and make available to school entities materials that a school entity may incorporate into social studies instruction. Prohibits a school from using the materials in a manner that impacts any curriculum requirements. Specifies what the materials may include. Expires the act on June 30, 2027. Effective in 30 days. (Prior PN: 308)

Intro Date

01/27/2025

Actions

06/25/2025 S - Second consideration

06/26/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations

06/26/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate Appropriations

06/26/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

06/26/2025 S - Third consideration and final passage

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 1946) Amends the Public School Code, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up; and making an editorial change. Includes provisions relating to human trafficking. Defines "human trafficking," "human trafficking organization," and "involuntary servitude." Adds that institutions of higher education and private licensed schools may consult with a human trafficking organization to develop and implement an education program. Adds that the department may consult with a human trafficking organization to develop the online clearinghouse of model education programs and other resources. Outlines the instruction that the human trafficking prevention component of an education program shall provide students with at a minimum, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. Adds the phrase "human trafficking" throughout the act. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 531)

Intro Date

02/10/2025

Actions

06/23/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

06/23/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

06/23/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/23/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

06/24/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

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

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

06/23/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/24/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/24/2025 - Voting Meeting (House Rules), Room 140, Main Capitol

06/24/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Rules

06/24/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Rules

HB865 - 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

Rep. Arvind Venkat (D)

Summary

(PN 2010) Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), 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. Amends the definition of “approved program of education.” Removes the requirement for a member not to possess a baccalaureate degree under additional eligibility criteria for full-time education assistance grants. Removes provisions providing for discharge for disability incurred in the line of duty. Adds that upon completion of a six-year obligation for which an eligible member received an educational assistance grant certificate of eligibility, an eligible member may receive successive educational assistance grant certificates of eligibility for a successive six-year commitment. Provides for the retention of the benefit. Specifies that an eligible member who fails to meet the six-year service obligation or other requirements established by the adjutant general shall only be liable to the agency for a proportional share of the promissory note and directs the agency to reduce the amount owed by an eligible member based off the time of service obligation completed. Revises the requirements for forgiveness of recoupment. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1705, 890)

Intro Date

03/11/2025

Actions

06/25/2025 S - Second consideration

06/26/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations

06/26/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate Appropriations

06/26/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

06/26/2025 S - Third consideration and final passage

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

06/10/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

06/10/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

06/10/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/10/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

06/25/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Finance

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

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

06/04/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

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

06/23/2025 H - Discussed at the School Funding Press Conference

06/25/2025 H - Discussed at the Philadelphia House Delegation Press Conference on School Funding

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

06/24/2025 H - Passed over in committee - 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

06/03/2025 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

06/24/2025 H - Voted favorably from committee with request to re-refer to the House Energy Committee - House Education

06/24/2025 H - Reported with request to re-refer to the House Energy Committee - House Education

06/24/2025 H - Re-referred to - House Energy

HB1632 - 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 human trafficking awareness and prevention.

Sponsor

Rep. Brenda M. Pugh (R)

Summary

No summary available yet.

Intro Date

06/23/2025

Actions

06/20/2025 H - Introduced

HB1648 - 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 definitions and providing for mental health days.

Sponsor

Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)

Summary

(PN 2002) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, further providing for definitions and providing for mental health days. Provides for policy adoption to provide an excused absence from compulsory school attendance designated as a mental health day when a student's well-being is at risk due to mental or physical fatigue, regardless of whether an underlying mental health-related condition triggering the fatigue is certified or uncertified. Requires the policy to be in place no later than the 2026-2027 school year by the board of directors or a governing body or a public, nonpublic or private school. Establishes that the policy adopted in this subsection is based on the model policy developed by the department under subsection (d). Provides that a student can use up to two consecutive days for a mental health day but shall not use three or more mental health days in a week or in two or more consecutive weeks. Provides for additional days needed for mental or physical fatigue should be permitted under policies and procedures adopted by the school under section 1329. Requires the department to develop and publish guidelines for schools to implement mental health days and a model policy to meet the requirements for adoption under subsection (a). Outlines the guidelines, including evidence-based guidance to integrate the student-excused absences for a mental health day into the school's support systems for student well-being. Provides for evidence-based practices for school employees to contact a student who uses two or more mental health days and connect them to mental health support. Requires the department to consult with a student advisory group and school administrators whose members are directly impacted by student absence rules and policies and those representing the diversity of the public school population including gender identity, family income, race and ethnicity, geography and any other factors deemed relevant by the department when developing the guidelines. Defines "certified mental health-related condition," "extended family," "fatigue," "immediate family," "mental health day," "school" and "uncertified mental health-related condition." Outlines qualifications for certified and uncertified mental health-related conditions. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

06/24/2025

Actions

06/23/2025 H - Introduced

06/24/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1649 - An Act amending Titles 53 (Municipalities Generally) and 72 (Taxation and Fiscal Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, eliminating school district property taxes; imposing county and school district taxes; establishing the School District Emergency Fund and the School District Property Tax Elimination Fund; consolidating Articles II and III of the Tax Reform Code of 1971; in preliminary provisions relating to sales and use tax, providing for definitions; in taxation generally relating to sales and use tax, providing for exclusions and for transfer to county sales and use tax accounts; in preliminary provisions relating to personal income tax, providing for definitions; and making repeals.

Sponsor

Rep. Wendy Fink (R)

Summary

No summary available yet.

Intro Date

06/24/2025

Actions

06/24/2025 H - Introduced

06/24/2025 H - Referred to - House Finance

HB1654 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in professional employees, further providing for minimum salaries for teachers.

Sponsor

Rep. Melissa L. Shusterman (D)

Summary

(PN 2007) Amends the Public School Code, in professional employees, further providing for minimum salaries for teachers. Establishes that each school district should have the same starting salary for teachers holding the same grade span state instructional certification in the same class and step for the school term 2026-2027, and each term thereafter. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

06/24/2025

Actions

06/24/2025 H - Introduced

06/24/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1663 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, establishing the Statewide Imagination Library Program and the Imagination Library of Pennsylvania Restricted Account; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

Sponsor

Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D)

Summary

No summary available yet.

Intro Date

06/25/2025

Actions

06/25/2025 H - Introduced

06/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Children and Youth

HB1669 - 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 free-play recess.

Sponsor

Rep. Tim Briggs (D)

Summary

No summary available yet.

Intro Date

06/25/2025

Actions

06/25/2025 H - Introduced

06/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HR273 - A Resolution urging school districts to adopt later secondary school start times.

Sponsor

Rep. Jill N. Cooper (R)

Summary

(PN 2036) Resolution urging school districts to adopt later secondary school start times.

Intro Date

06/25/2025

Actions

06/25/2025 H - Introduced

06/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

SB10 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, establishing the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship Program and the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship Fund.

Sponsor

Sen. Judy Ward (R)

Summary

(PN 692) Amends the Public School Code, adding Article XVII-E to establish the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success (PASS) Scholarship Program as a program in the State Treasury to provide scholarships to help eligible students pay tuition, school-related fees and special education services fees for attendance at a participating nonpublic school and the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship Fund in the State Treasury. Provides several definitions. Provides the purpose of the program. Requires notification to parents and lists required contents. Requires a notice to the State Treasury. Mandates the State Treasury to develop an application form. Provides the application and approval process. Stipulates that for the 2026-2027 school year, scholarships shall be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis considering money available in the fund, and for the 2027-2028 school year and each school year thereafter, priority for scholarships shall be given to prior year scholarship recipients. Asserts that new applicants shall be awarded a scholarship on a first-come, first-served basis, considering the money available in the fund. Provides for entering into agreements, the terms of the agreement and the termination of agreements. Allows agreement renewal. Permits multiple agreements. Requires a written explanation to parents. Asserts that the PASS scholarship account is administered by the State Treasurer. Provides money deposit into the account and lists deposit amounts. Permits payments to participating nonpublic schools. Establishes a general rule for qualified education expenses, listing the expenses. Asserts that a participating nonpublic school that receives a payment for qualified education expenses authorized under subsection (a) may not refund, rebate or otherwise directly share any portion of the payment with the parent who made the payment. Declares the money in a PASS scholarship account as not taxable income to the parent or scholarship recipient under state law. Explains that an award made to, or payment from, a PASS scholarship account may not be construed to be an appropriation or financial assistance to a participating nonpublic school. Specifies the purpose of the PASS fund. Explains that the funding of the fund consists of money appropriated, given, granted or donated by the commonwealth or any other government or private agency or person for the purpose established under this article, and the money is appropriated on a continuing basis. Establishes duties of the State Treasury. Permits contracting with a third-party administration to administer the program. Provides temporary regulations that are deemed necessary. Establishes duties of the Auditor General and of participating nonpublic schools. Provides prohibitions and reporting requirements. Permits the barring of certain participating nonpublic schools and requires the posting of a notification on the State Treasury website. Permits a nonpublic school to appeal the decision. Provides for the duties of resident school districts. Requires reporting and outlines the required contents. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

04/28/2025

Actions

05/06/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

05/06/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

05/06/2025 S - First consideration

06/23/2025 S - Laid on the table

06/23/2025 S - Removed from table

SB127 - 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, repealing provisions relating to Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction and providing for Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction required.

Sponsor

Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)

Summary

(PN 76) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, repealing provisions relating to Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction and providing for Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction required. Requires instruction on the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations to begin with the 2026-2027 school year. Provides that the instruction should be age-appropriate, sequential in the method of study, communicate the connection between national, ethnic, racial or religious intolerance and the subjects described, and communicate the impact of personal responsibility, civic engagement and societal response within the context of the subjects described. Permits the usage of public and private materials. Requires reviewing and updating existing curriculum. Requires training programs beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Provides several definitions. The repeal of section 1554 of the act shall be effective June 30, 2026, and the remainder of this act shall be effective immediately.

Intro Date

01/22/2025

Actions

05/06/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

05/06/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

05/06/2025 S - First consideration

06/23/2025 S - Laid on the table

06/23/2025 S - Removed from table

SB180 - 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 an interfund transfer and an appropriation.

Sponsor

Sen. Lindsey Marie Williams (D)

Summary

(PN 821) 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 with the goal to provide two free meals each day to each student regardless of household income and the Universal School Meal Fund within the State Treasury; and making an interfund transfer and an appropriation. Provides definitions. Requires schools to provide parents with information to apply for social service assistance programs. Prohibits schools from stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for a school meal, including serving the student an alternative meal or requiring the student to wear a wristband, hand stamp or other article identifying the student as having school meal debt. Amends language regarding a student's ability to pay for school meals. Adds an additional procedure for schools when a student owes money for five or more school meals. Asserts that students may be required to purchase additional snacks or other food offered by the school which is not included in the meal service. Allows schools to implement monitoring requirements and promulgations as necessary to implement the provisions of this section. Requires schools to report to the Department of Education (PDE) regarding the program. Asserts PDE will monitor public school entities that receive state reimbursement with additional details. Outlines how PDE will provide state reimbursement. Asserts that \$25 million will be appropriated from the General Fund to PDE for reimbursement of student meal debt. Requires PDE to develop a procedure for allocation. Requires PDE to develop a procedure if the appropriated amount is insufficient to fully reimburse student meal debt. Provides definitions. Effective September 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later.

Intro Date

05/22/2025

Actions

05/22/2025 S - Introduced

05/22/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

06/24/2025 S - Discussed at the SNAPA Press Conference

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

06/24/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Education

06/24/2025 H - Reported as committed - House Education

06/25/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/25/2025 H - Second consideration

06/25/2025 H - Re-referred to - House Appropriations

SB375 - 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, repealing provisions relating to CPR instruction; in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program; and, in school health services, further providing for definitions, repealing provisions relating to automatic external defibrillators, providing for AED and CPR instruction and procedure, establishing the Automated External Defibrillator Program and providing for availability and specifications of automated external defibrillators.

Sponsor

Sen. Rosemary M. Brown (R)

Summary

(PN 934) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, repealing provisions relating to CPR instruction; in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program; and, in school health services, further providing for definitions, repealing provisions relating to automatic external defibrillators, providing for AED and CPR instruction and procedure, establishing the Automated External Defibrillator Program and providing for availability and specifications of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Asserts the School Safety and Security Fund may use grants to provide AEDs and training. Provides additional details regarding the percentage of money appropriated to the fund in that fiscal year that must go toward AEDs and training. Requires any uncommitted moneys to be returned to the fund by September 30 of each succeeding fiscal year. Defines "automated external defibrillator." Requires each school entity and nonpublic school to make available instructions on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED usage to its employees and volunteers on school property at least once every two years, with additional details. Outlines requirements for AED locations and training. Provides continuing education requirements. Requires completion of training under this section to be recorded with specified details. Requires the Department of Education (PDE), in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), to develop guidelines and materials to assist school entities and nonpublic schools in developing a cardiac emergency response plan with additional information. Provides additional definitions. Provides a procedure for a biennial bid for the cost of AEDs and other equipment and necessary supplies. Provides requirements of eligibility to obtain, purchase or loan AEDs under the program. Asserts that the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. § 8331.2 apply to school entities and nonpublic school employees who render care with an AED. Allows PDE to offer discounts or loans for AEDs as necessary. Asserts that AED purchases are considered an allowable use of Pennsylvania Accountability Grants under section 2599.2(b), as well as an innovative educational program under Article XX-B and an eligible school safety and security expense in section 1306-B(j). Allows PDE to accept donations under this section with specified requirements. Outlines content requirements for reports under this section. Allows PDE to adopt other guidelines as necessary to implement this section. Requires school entities and nonpublic schools that participate in interscholastic athletics to have an AED readily accessible. Prohibits this section from being construed as establishing any liability against a school entity or nonpublic school or its officers or employees. Requires school entities and nonpublic schools to ensure each AED is properly tested and maintained. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 912)

Intro Date

06/06/2025

Actions

06/24/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations

06/24/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate Appropriations

06/24/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

06/24/2025 S - Third consideration and final passage

06/25/2025 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, bringing 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

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

06/09/2025 S - Second consideration

06/09/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

SB700 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in evidence-based reading instruction, further providing for definitions and for evidence-based reading instruction curriculum and providing for reading screening, for reading deficiency and identification, for school entity duties and reading intervention plan, for parent notification, for grants to school entities, for funding and for reporting; and establishing the Evidence-based Reading Instruction Restricted Account.

Sponsor

Sen. Devlin J. Robinson (R)

Summary

(PN 714) Amends the Public School Code, in evidence-based reading instruction, further providing for definitions and for evidence-based reading instruction curriculum and providing for reading screening, for reading deficiency and identification, for school entity duties and reading intervention plan, for parent notification, for grants to school entities, for funding and for reporting; and establishing the Evidence-based Reading Instruction Restricted Account. Adds definitions for “core curriculum” and “parent.” Requires the department to collect and post on their website a disaggregated list of school entities that have adopted an evidence-based reading instruction curriculum, are using reading screeners or are undergoing or have completed a structured literacy professional development training. Increases the expiration date to 10 years for the reporting requirement subsection. Replaces subsection (b) regarding the list of screeners, to outline the duties of the school entity, including approving, beginning with the 2016-2027 school year, a professional development training program, ensuring students in kindergarten through grade three who are identified for reading deficiencies are provided intervention plans and, no later than the 2030-2031 school year adopting an evidence-based reading instruction curriculum and identifying an education responsible for assisting with the implementation. Provides for reading screenings, requiring school entities to screen each student from kindergarten through grade three for reading competency three times each school year. Requires school entities to provide educators time during the contractual school day to complete data entry and compilation associated with the screenings. Provides for exceptions and outlines the list of screeners. Outlines the reading deficiency and identification processes. Provides for the school entity duties and reading intervention plan, outlining content requirements. Requires parent notification for each student who exhibits a deficiency in reading in the third screening at the end of the school year. Establishes grants to school entities, requiring the department to establish a program to aid school entities with initial costs associated with training and other resources necessary to implement the article. Outlines the application and eligibility requirements. Establishes the Evidence-based Reading Instruction Restricted Account within the General fund, outlines the uses and funding origins, including appropriations from the General Assembly, funds from the federal government and funding from other public and private sources. Establishes reporting requirements. Effective in 90 days.

Intro Date

04/30/2025

Actions

05/06/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

05/06/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

05/06/2025 S - First consideration

06/23/2025 S - Second consideration

06/23/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

SB838 - An Act amending the act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the Private Licensed Schools Act, further providing for definitions.

Sponsor

Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R)

Summary

(PN 904) Amends the Private Licensed Schools Act, further providing for definitions. Expands definition of "private licensed school," to include the phrase, "a school or provider approved by the State Real Estate Commission or the State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers." Effective immediately.

Intro Date

06/06/2025

Actions

06/24/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations

06/24/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate Appropriations

06/24/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

06/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Professional Licensure

06/26/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/30/2025 - Voting Meeting (House Professional Licensure), Room 60, East Wing

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 1946) Amends the Public School Code, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up; and making an editorial change. Includes provisions relating to human trafficking. Defines "human trafficking," "human trafficking organization," and "involuntary servitude." Adds that institutions of higher education and private licensed schools may consult with a human trafficking organization to develop and implement an education program. Adds that the department may consult with a human trafficking organization to develop the online clearinghouse of model education programs and other resources. Outlines the instruction that the human trafficking prevention component of an education program shall provide students with at a minimum, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. Adds the phrase "human trafficking" throughout the act. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 531)

Intro Date

02/10/2025

Actions

06/23/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

06/23/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

06/23/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/23/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

06/24/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

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

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

06/24/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Education

06/24/2025 H - Reported as committed - House Education

06/24/2025 H - First consideration

06/24/2025 H - Re-committed to - House Rules

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

06/23/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

06/23/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

06/23/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/23/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

06/24/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

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

06/25/2025 S - Second consideration

06/25/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

06/25/2025 S - Meeting Scheduled - 06/26/2025 - Voting Meeting (Senate Appropriations), Rules Committee Conference Room

06/26/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations

06/26/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate 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

06/25/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/25/2025 - Voting Meeting (House Rules), Room 140, Main Capitol

06/25/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Rules

06/26/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/26/2025 H - Second consideration

HB1626 - 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 Barber Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program.

Sponsor

Rep. Manuel Guzman (D)

Summary

(PN 1968) Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for Barber Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program. Establishes the Barber Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program as a permanent program. Directs each career and technical center and secondary school participating in the program to submit a report no later than June 1 of each year. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

06/20/2025

Actions

06/25/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/25/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/25/2025 - Voting Meeting (House Rules), Room 140, Main Capitol

06/26/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

06/26/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/26/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

HB1627 - 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.

Sponsor

Rep. Carol Kazeem (D)

Summary

(PN 1969) Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for Cosmetology Training Through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program. Establishes the Cosmetology Training Through Career and Technical Center Program as a permanent program. Directs each career and technical center and secondary school participating in the program to submit a report no later than June 1 of each year. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

06/20/2025

Actions

06/25/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/25/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/25/2025 - Voting Meeting (House Rules), Room 140, Main Capitol

06/26/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

06/26/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/26/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

SB375 - 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, repealing provisions relating to CPR instruction; in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program; and, in school health services, further providing for definitions, repealing provisions relating to automatic external defibrillators, providing for AED and CPR instruction and procedure, establishing the Automated External Defibrillator Program and providing for availability and specifications of automated external defibrillators.

Sponsor

Sen. Rosemary M. Brown (R)

Summary

(PN 934) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, repealing provisions relating to CPR instruction; in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program; and, in school health services, further providing for definitions, repealing provisions relating to automatic external defibrillators, providing for AED and CPR instruction and procedure, establishing the Automated External Defibrillator Program and providing for availability and specifications of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Asserts the School Safety and Security Fund may use grants to provide AEDs and training. Provides additional details regarding the percentage of money appropriated to the fund in that fiscal year that must go toward AEDs and training. Requires any uncommitted moneys to be returned to the fund by September 30 of each succeeding fiscal year. Defines "automated external defibrillator." Requires each school entity and nonpublic school to make available instructions on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED usage to its employees and volunteers on school property at least once every two years, with additional details. Outlines requirements for AED locations and training. Provides continuing education requirements. Requires completion of training under this section to be recorded with specified details. Requires the Department of Education (PDE), in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), to develop guidelines and materials to assist school entities and nonpublic schools in developing a cardiac emergency response plan with additional information. Provides additional definitions. Provides a procedure for a biennial bid for the cost of AEDs and other equipment and necessary supplies. Provides requirements of eligibility to obtain, purchase or loan AEDs under the program. Asserts that the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. § 8331.2 apply to school entities and nonpublic school employees who render care with an AED. Allows PDE to offer discounts or loans for AEDs as necessary. Asserts that AED purchases are considered an allowable use of Pennsylvania Accountability Grants under section 2599.2(b), as well as an innovative educational program under Article XX-B and an eligible school safety and security expense in section 1306-B(j). Allows PDE to accept donations under this section with specified requirements. Outlines content requirements for reports under this section. Allows PDE to adopt other guidelines as necessary to implement this section. Requires school entities and nonpublic schools that participate in interscholastic athletics to have an AED readily accessible. Prohibits this section from being construed as establishing any liability against a school entity or nonpublic school or its officers or employees. Requires school entities and nonpublic schools to ensure each AED is properly tested and maintained. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 912)

Intro Date

06/06/2025

Actions

06/24/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations

06/24/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate Appropriations

06/24/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

06/24/2025 S - Third consideration and final passage

06/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

SB432 - 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, providing for educational opportunities for foster and adopted children.

Sponsor

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)

Summary

(PN 935) Amends the Public School Code, in the State System of Higher Education, providing for educational opportunities for foster and adopted children. Requires an institution to provide each eligible nonresident student who enrolls with a fostering independence waiver for undergraduate courses beginning with the semester starting in fall 2025. Provides eligibility requirements for the fostering independence waiver, including an individual having experienced foster care at 16 years of age or older or, after attaining 16 years of age, exited foster care to adoption or permanent legal custodianship. Stipulates the fostering independence waiver shall be available for up to five years, whether or not consecutive, or until the individual reaches 26 years of age, whichever occurs first. Requires annual reporting. Defines "fostering independence waiver." Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 399)

Intro Date

03/17/2025

Actions

06/11/2025 S - Second consideration

06/11/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

06/23/2025 S - Meeting Scheduled - 06/24/2025 - Voting Meeting (Senate Appropriations), Rules Committee Conference Room

06/24/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations

06/24/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate Appropriations

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

06/25/2025 H - Placed on HVS

06/26/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

06/26/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

06/26/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

06/26/2025 S - Signed in Senate

SB733 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in higher education accountability and transparency, further providing for exit counseling.

Sponsor

Sen. Vincent J. Hughes (D)

Summary

(PN 785) Amends the Public School Code, in higher education accountability and transparency, further providing for exit counseling. Requires each institution of higher education that receives information regarding Federal education loans or other student loans that may require repayment for a student enrolled at the institution of higher education shall make financial aid counseling available to each student at the end of the student's final academic term, unless the individual selects not to participate. Directs an institution to attempt to make financial aid counseling available for students who transfer or withdraw, unless the student has Federal education loans or other student loans known to the institution of higher education that do not require repayment. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

05/12/2025

Actions

06/10/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

06/11/2025 S - Second consideration

06/11/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

06/23/2025 S - Meeting Scheduled - 06/24/2025 - Voting Meeting (Senate Appropriations), Rules Committee Conference Room

06/24/2025 S - Passed Over in committee - Senate Appropriations

SB842 - An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76), known as The Dental Law, further providing for definitions, for general powers of the State Board of Dentistry, for penalties and for restricted faculty license.

Sponsor

Sen. Rosemary M. Brown (R)

Summary

(PN 914) Amends the Dental Law, further providing for definitions, for general powers of the State Board of Dentistry, for penalties and for restricted faculty license. Extends the duration of practice of dentistry in a clinical continuing education course to one year. Adds a clinical facility owned and operated by a dental school or affiliated academic health care center when the clinical facility or affiliated academic health care center is not operated for the profit of the dental school or any affiliated third party under the definition of "restricted faculty license." Requires the board to perform individualized assessments in assessing moral character. Adds facilities owned or operated by a dental school, an affiliated academic health care center or a dental school-owned faculty practice throughout the language of the bill. Outlines additional criteria for restricted faculty licenses. Removes the limitations on restricted faculty licenses. Makes technical and editorial changes. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

06/06/2025

Actions

06/24/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations

06/24/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate Appropriations

06/24/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

06/25/2025 H - Referred to - House Professional Licensure

06/26/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 06/30/2025 - Voting Meeting (House Professional Licensure), Room 60, East Wing

SB891 - An Act amending the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), known as The Professional Nursing Law, further providing for examinations and certificates; and abrogating regulations.

Sponsor

Sen. Dawn W. Keefer (R)

Summary

(PN 1002) Amends the Professional Nursing Law, further providing for examinations and certificates; and abrogating regulations. Requires the board to immediately admit to examination an eligible applicant who has satisfactorily completed a nursing education program approved and listed under sections 6.1 and 6.2 for the preparation of registered professional nurses upon receipt of a nursing education verification under the subsection. Ensures that the board does not delay admission to examination for an eligible applicant who meets the requirements under the subsection. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

06/24/2025

Actions

06/24/2025 S - Introduced

06/24/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

Upcoming Events

MONDAY – 06/30/25

10:00 AM, School Funding Press Event

Press Conference, Harrisburg Capitol Complex

11:00 AM, PA Youth and Safety Caucus Press Conference

Press Conference, Harrisburg Capitol Complex

WEDNESDAY – 7/09/2025

TBA, State Board of Education

Board Meeting, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg

In the News

[06/20/2025 - UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and University of Pittsburgh Melanoma Researcher Receives Endowed Annual Award](#)

[06/20/2025 - The Pennsylvania Educator Diversity Consortium Announces 6th Annual Virtual Summit](#)

[06/23/2025 - Hogan, Labs Introduce Legislation to Support Early Childhood Educators](#)

[06/24/2025 - PA House Approves Watro's Cursive Bill](#)

[06/24/2025 - The Beat Will Go On: Senate Approves Brown's AED Safety Bill](#)

[06/24/2025 - DDAP: Investing in Rural Health Care: Shapiro Administration Highlights Plan to Expand Student Loan Repayment Initiative in Governor's Budget Proposal to Boost Substance Use Disorder Workforce](#)

[06/24/2025 - House Education Committee approves Kazeem's cosmetology training through CTCs](#)

[06/25/2025 - House Dems: Legislators, school leaders celebrate Solar for Schools grants in bipartisan event; call for renewed funding](#)

[06/26/2025 - Pennsylvania Sees Boost in Certified Teachers as Shapiro Administration's Educator Workforce Strategy Delivers Results](#)

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.

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