

July 11 – 17, 2025

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SESSION STATUS

At 9:03 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, the House met briefly in non-voting session and now stands adjourned until Monday, September 22, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 10:21 a.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2025, the Senate recessed to the call of the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

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

Senate

Sept. 8-10
Oct. 20-22, 27-29
Nov. 17-19
Dec. 8-9

The Education Recap is a comprehensive weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education-related legislation in Pennsylvania state government, as compiled and edited by PLS. Additional information, including video, transcript and testimony, is available to [PLSGovTrac](https://www.plsgovtrac.com) users. For more information, contact sales@mypls.com.

Press Conferences

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

No press conferences this week.

Committee News

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

House Appropriations Committee

07/14/2025, 11:00 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol
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.

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

[HB 564](#) – (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). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1212](#) – (PN 1935) Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in miscellaneous provisions, providing for drug screening and awareness education and for fatherhood engagement in maternal health; and imposing duties on the Joint State Government Commission (JSGC). Revises the declaration of purpose. Adds further definitions. Requires the Department of Health to conduct a public awareness campaign on fatherhood engagement in maternal health, no later than two years after the effective date of this section, subject to funding being available. Mandates that the public awareness campaign include messaging intended to provide information to the public about the importance of a father's role in pregnancy and parenting, as well as resources and information that promote awareness about the impact of father inclusion on maternal and infant outcomes. Requires the department to post materials that address how a provider of maternity care can provide training and dedication to a health care practitioner about the benefits of fatherhood engagement in improving overall health outcomes during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum for both the mother and the baby. Directs the department to encourage and promote the inclusion of paternal depression screening by providers of maternity care as part of care provided during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum for both the mother and baby. Establishes reporting requirements for a study conducted by JSGC no later than four years after the effective date. Makes editorial adjustments. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1360). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1407](#) – (PN 2106) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of department and providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels; and abrogating the regulations 22 Pa. Code § 49.85(c) and (d) are abrogated insofar as they are inconsistent with this act. Amends the heading for section 1202.1 to read as special education. Designates an expiration date for (b)(1)(i) of July 1, 2027. Provides the grade span and age level for primary instructional certificates issued after July 1, 2027, as prekindergarten, kindergarten, grades one through six or ages three through 11, secondary as grades seven through 12 or ages 12 through 21 and specialized areas as prekindergarten through grade 12 or ages three through 21, notwithstanding 22 Pa. Code § 49.85 (relating to limitations). Stipulates that certificates issued in accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 49.85(a), (b) and (d) shall remain valid for the term of the certificate. Establishes two pathways developed by the Department of Education for an individual holding an elementary/middle instructional certificate. Provides for the issuance of certificates. Adds that an approved educator preparation program shall be restricted from accepting new candidates seeking a certificate no later than July 1, 2027. Specifies that an educator holding an early childhood certificate may teach fifth and sixth grade, and an educator holding a secondary school certificate may teach sixth grade in the subject area for which the certificate is endorsed. Allows the secretary of education to adopt standards and guidelines, as well as grant exceptions to the grade and age level limitations. Outlines provisions for an approved educator preparation program. Defines "early childhood." Applies the amendment or addition of sections 1202.1 heading and (b)(1)(i) and 1202.2 of the act to the 2027-2028 academic year. Section 3 is effective July 1, 2027. The remainder of this act is effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1605). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1466](#) – (PN 1973) Amends Title 7 (Banks and Banking), in mortgage loan industry licensing and consumer protection, further providing for general requirements. Adds that if a licensee processes an application submitted by an individual for a reverse mortgage, a licensee shall provide in-person, face-to-face housing counseling to the individual who submitted the application. Provides that if the individual is unable or chooses not to schedule a visit with a housing counselor by either traveling to a housing counseling agency or having an in-home visit from a counselor, a licensee shall conduct the counseling over the telephone or through video teleconference. Asserts that after the completion of the counseling, a licensee shall issue to the individual a certificate. Outlines the content requirements. Adds a definition for "reverse mortgage loan." Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN 1717). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.



House Appropriations Committee

07/14/2025, 2:15 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider one bill.

[HB 1330](#) - (PN 1143) The General Appropriation Act of 2025 provides appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools 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; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the executive and judicial departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; to provide for the appropriation of federal funds to the executive and judicial departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; and to provide for the additional appropriation of federal and state funds to the executive and legislative departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was **reported as amended**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

[A01561](#), by Harris, provides an omnibus amendment. The amendment was **adopted**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Minority Chairman James Struzzi (R-Indiana) noted discussions were still ongoing and said the amendment reduces the proposed spending to \$50.6 billion instead of Governor Josh Shapiro's proposed \$51.5 billion. He said his caucus did not have a "thorough opportunity" to read through the amendment and would be voting in the negative. He reaffirmed his caucus's priorities in energy, government reform and "student-centered" education, but said the amendment was a "step in the right direction." On the overall amended bill, Chairman Struzzi commented, "We look forward to additional discussions so that all parties involved in this budget negotiation can reach a product that's agreed to that spends our taxpayer dollars in a responsible manner."

Chairman Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia), the bill's prime sponsor, acknowledged the deadline for the budget had passed. He admitted the budget bill is a "compromised document," and reaffirmed his caucus's priorities, including funding mass transit and schools. He discussed the importance of a budget and the impact a budget has on the various areas throughout the commonwealth. He reiterated the date being July 14 and said, "We can't keep kicking this can down the road." He voiced concern with future delays, stating, "Any more delay brings havoc to those schools and those school districts — it requires nonprofits to take out lines of credit to continue to operate that they will not be reimbursed for the interest that they're paying." He acknowledged the budget does not have all of what his caucus wants but would vote to move it forward in hopes of getting it to Gov. Shapiro for his signature.



Senate Education Committee

07/16/2025, 5:00 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[SB 922](#) - (PN 1053) Amends the Private Academic Schools Act, further providing for application for license, for issuance and renewal of license and for promulgation of rules and regulations. Adds that an application may be submitted prior to securing a physical facility through a lease or ownership if a facility's planning statement is included in the application and identifies the school site under active consideration, a timeline for finalizing the lease or sale and a contingency plan in the event that the lease or sale is not timely executed. Allows an application to be submitted that includes staffing projections and identifies the proposed teachers, professional staff and director who meet the qualification requirements, and who the applicant school intends to formally hire upon receipt of licensure. Permits the board to grant conditional approval of initial licensure, stipulating that the board may not grant an initial license to an applicant school until the applicant school submits evidence fulfilling the conditions for approval. Outlines qualifications for teachers, professional staff and directors. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Democrats voting in the negative.

Minority Chairman Lindsey Williams (D-Allegheny) voiced concerns and questions she had about the bill and noted it was a “late-filed” bill that was added to their agenda.

Sen. Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland) asked if the bill’s prime sponsor could answer questions about the bill.

Chairman Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-Northumberland) said she could try to answer questions, noting the bill’s prime sponsor, Sen. Scott Martin (R-Lancaster), was not present.

[SB 927](#) - (PN 1039) Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for enrollee wellness checks. Removes “able to be” from the language of the bill to establish a real-time, visibly seen and communicated with by a teacher requirement for cyber charter school students during a wellness check. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, with Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin) voting in the negative.

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R-Berks), the bill’s prime sponsor, provided a brief description of her bill.

Chairman Williams acknowledged the bill and other bills on the agenda are part of the budget negotiations and suggested the bill follow the House version of the bill, which she said has “stronger” language.

[SB 934](#) - (PN 1031) Amends the Public School Code, in cyber charter schools, further providing for enrollment and notification. Establishes continued proof of a student’s residence submission requirements by November 1 and by March 1 of each school year. Removes the seven-day time period provision for receipts from the language of the bill and removes language related to appealing the district’s decision of residence. Adds that if the department determines that the student is not a resident of the school district, the department shall notify the cyber charter school of the student’s proper district of residence. Allows employees to report suspected nonresident enrollees. Requires the school to investigate the good-faith report. Provides for the Whistleblower Law to cover potential employee reports. Requires proof of residency, outlining eligible documents. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as amended**, with Sen. Mastriano voting in the negative.

[A01568](#), by Culver, adds provisions for the identification by school districts of “homeless students” and provides a 15-day window for investigation by the department. The amendment was **adopted**, with Sen. Mastriano and Democrats voting in the negative.

Sen. Pennycuick, the bill’s prime sponsor, provided an overview of her bill and voiced support for the amendment.

Sen. Rothman asked about requirements for public schools and noted his district has “two of the most desired schools.” Cindy Urban, Republican executive director, gave an overall explanation of what the bill does and stated the bill requires “cybers to report twice a year.”

[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 **reported as committed**, with Chairman Williams and Sen. Tim Kearney (D-Delaware) voting in the negative.

Chairman Williams discussed her experience talking with parents who have voiced positive impacts of learning cursive handwriting but also voiced concerns about mandates.

[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 amended**.

[A01565](#), by Culver, makes editorial changes, including the addition of relevant oversight organizations. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Chairman Williams voiced praise for the addition of the amendment and the names of organizations that will be included in the amended bill. She urged an increase in funding for rape crisis centers throughout the commonwealth.

[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 **reported as committed**, with Sen. Dave Argall (R-Schuylkill) voting in the negative.

[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 **reported as committed**, with Sen. Argall voting in the negative.



Senate Appropriations Committee

07/16/2025, 5:15 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Julia Walters, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

[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**.

[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, brining and prosecuting legal proceedings or actions, purchasing and maintaining insurance and bonds, borrowing, accepting or contracting for services, hiring employees, electing or appointing officers, fixing compensation, defining duties, accepting any and all appropriate donations and grants, leasing, purchasing, accepting appropriate gifts or donations, selling, conveying, mortgaging, pledging, leasing, exchanging abandoning or other disposing of real property, establishing a budget, borrowing money, appointing committees, providing and receiving information from law enforcement agencies, establishing and electing an executive committee and performing such other functions as may be necessary. Outlines the composition of the executive committee and outlines meeting requirements. Provides for financing of the commission and for qualified immunity, defense and indemnification. Requires the creation, maintenance, operation and utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system and outlines information submission requirements for member states. Allows the commission to promulgate reasonable rules and outlines the rule requirements. Provides for oversight, dispute resolution and enforcement. Allows for withdrawals and amendments to the compact. Provides for the binding effect of the compact and other laws. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Cris Dush (R-Jefferson) stated he had a “series of questions that are being researched right now” on the legislation but expressed his willingness to vote for its passage out of committee.

[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**.

[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 1330](#) - (PN 2118) The General Appropriations Act of 2025 provides appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools 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; provides appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; provides for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; and provides for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Legislative Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Applies the act retroactively to July 1, 2025. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1143). The bill was **reported as amended**, with Sens. Amanda Cappelletti (D-Montgomery), Art Haywood (D-Montgomery), Timothy Kearney (D-Delaware), Patty Kim (D-Dauphin), Judy Schwank (D-Berks) and Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia) voting in the negative.

[A01564](#), by Martin, outlines an appropriation amount of \$11,921,000 to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for rape crisis programs, makes technical changes and amends language. The amendment was **adopted**, on a party-line vote, with Democrats voting in the negative.

Minority Chairman Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia) noted that while they are in a review period, there are concerns about the amendment and its impact. He urged a no-vote.



Bullet.in.Points

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE: EXECUTIVE ORDERS, MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVES, AND OTHER ISSUANCES OF THE DIRECTIVES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INDEXED FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES

The Governor’s Office updated the Index of Issuances to add new issuances and amend and rescind others. Additional information is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO2486 - Title IX Athletics Report Card

Sponsor

Rep. Melissa L. Shusterman (D)

Summary

Aims to amend the Public School Code to expand upon the existing reporting requirements to increase the transparency and visibility of collected information.

Intro Date

07/11/2025

Actions

07/11/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2491 - Delaying Payments to Cyber Charter Schools During a Budget Impasse

Sponsor

Rep. Tarah Probst (D)

Summary

Allows school districts to delay sending monthly payments to cyber charter schools until the General Assembly passes a state budget.

Intro Date

07/14/2025

Actions

07/14/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2496 - Supporting Pennsylvania's Participation in Federal Tax Credit for Scholarship Granting Organizations

Sponsor

Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)

Summary

Requires Pennsylvania's Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to immediately begin the process by sending formal notification to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury indicating that Pennsylvania will join the federal tax credit program for individual contributions to scholarship-granting organizations; and requires DCED to include a comprehensive list of scholarship granting organizations located in Pennsylvania who meet the requirements specified under federal law.

Intro Date

07/16/2025

Actions

07/16/2025 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

07/16/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - First consideration

07/17/2025 S - Second consideration

07/17/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

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 2147) 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 prevention organization,” and “involuntary servitude.” Adds that institutions of higher education and private licensed schools may consult with a human trafficking prevention organization to develop and implement an education program. Provides that the department shall consult the Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect when creating a model education program or other resources to help schools fulfill this requirement. Adds that the department may consult with a human trafficking prevention 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: 1946, 531)

Intro Date

02/10/2025

Actions

07/16/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - Reported as amended - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - First consideration

07/17/2025 S - Second consideration

07/17/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

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

07/09/2025 H - Second consideration

07/14/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

07/14/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

07/14/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

07/14/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

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

Sponsor

Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D)

Summary

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

Intro Date

05/28/2025

Actions

07/07/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

07/07/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

07/07/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

07/07/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

07/14/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

HB1726 - An Act amending the the act of October 24, 2012 (P.L.1209, No.151), known as the Child Labor Act, further providing for definitions, for occupations and establishments, for employment of minors in a performance and for duties of employer; repealing provisions relating to work permit; and further providing for administration and for newspaper delivery.

Sponsor

Rep. Dan Moul (R)

Summary

(PN 2126) Amends the Child Labor Act, further providing for definitions, for occupations and establishments, for employment of minors in a performance and for duties of employer; repealing provisions relating to work permit; and further providing for administration and for newspaper delivery. Repeals the definition for “work permit” and work permit provisions throughout the act. Revises duties of the employer, providing for parental authorization and for a minor under 16 years of age. Removes duties for school districts. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

07/14/2025

Actions

07/11/2025 H - Introduced

07/14/2025 H - Referred to - House Labor and Industry

HB1732 - An Act amending the act of January 28, 1988 (P.L.24, No.11), known as the Private Academic Schools Act, further providing for application for license, for issuance and renewal of license and for promulgation of rules and regulations.

Sponsor

Rep. Bryan Cutler (R)

Summary

(PN 2132) Amends the Private Academic Schools Act, further providing for application for license, for issuance and renewal of license and for promulgation of rules and regulations. Provides that the application can be submitted prior to obtaining a physical facility through lease or ownership if a facility’s planning statement is included in the application and identifies the school site under active consideration, a timeline to finalize the lease or sale and a contingency plan unless the timeline is not met. Provides that the application should include staffing projections that identify the proposed teachers, professional staff and director who meet qualification requirements and who the school intends to formally hire upon obtaining the licensure. Outlines the conditional approval of licensure that does not exceed six months, if the board finds the application and the school comply with this act and the rules and regulations set forth but certain application components remain pending. Provides the components that can remain pending for conditional approval are formal hiring of staffing projections or the submission of an occupying lease or a face copy of the deed and facility inspection completion. Establishes that the board cannot grant an initial license to an applicant school until the school submits evidence fulfilling all conditions for approval and failure to do so within the six-month conditional approval period will result in a license revocation without further notice. Provides for general rules and regulations. Provides for qualifications for teachers, professional staff and directors. Outlines that no later than 180 days after the effective date, the board shall establish rules and regulations and policies, principles and standards necessary to carry out the purpose of this act. Provides for policies that provide the authority for private academic schools to apply for emergency permits and long-term or day-to-day substitute permits through the department and provides for additional requirements, conditions or exemptions to accommodate the need for fully qualified and properly certificated or permitted staff to provide instruction and student services. Provides that the board cannot issue an initial or renewal license to a private academic school that identifies for employment until the rules and regulations, policies, principles and standards are in effect. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

07/14/2025

Actions

07/14/2025 H - Introduced

07/14/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1743 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for comprehensive school counseling services.

Sponsor

Rep. Mandy Steele (D)

Summary

(PN 2145) Amends the Public School Code, adding an article to provide for comprehensive school counseling services. Provides definitions. Directs each school entity to develop and implement a written comprehensive school counseling plan. Outlines plan requirements and what a plan must contain. Requires sufficient time at each school entity to be allotted for the school's counselor to carry out the duties stated in the plan. Provides for direct and indirect services. Provides for administrative activities. Asserts that each school entity shall be responsible for posting its plan on its website or, in the alternative, on the website of the school district, under the category of state-required information. Mandates the Department of Education to monitor each school entity to ensure implementation and compliance with this article, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Outlines departmental duties. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

07/16/2025

Actions

07/16/2025 H - Introduced

07/16/2025 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

07/16/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations

07/16/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate Appropriations

07/17/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

07/17/2025 S - Third consideration and final passage

07/17/2025 H - Referred to - House Professional Licensure

SB922 - An Act amending the act of January 28, 1988 (P.L.24, No.11), known as the Private Academic Schools Act, further providing for application for license, for issuance and renewal of license and for promulgation of rules and regulations.

Sponsor

Sen. Scott Martin (R)

Summary

(PN 1053) Amends the Private Academic Schools Act, further providing for application for license, for issuance and renewal of license and for promulgation of rules and regulations. Adds that an application may be submitted prior to securing a physical facility through a lease or ownership if a facility's planning statement is included in the application and identifies the school site under active consideration, a timeline for finalizing the lease or sale and a contingency plan in the event that the lease or sale is not timely executed. Allows an application to be submitted that includes staffing projections and identifies the proposed teachers, professional staff and director who meet the qualification requirements, and who the applicant school intends to formally hire upon receipt of licensure. Permits the board to grant conditional approval of initial licensure, stipulating that the board may not grant an initial license to an applicant school until the applicant school submits evidence fulfilling the conditions for approval. Outlines qualifications for teachers, professional staff and directors. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

07/15/2025

Actions

07/15/2025 S - Introduced

07/16/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - First consideration

07/17/2025 S - Second consideration

SB927 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in charter schools, further providing for enrollee wellness checks.

Sponsor

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)

Summary

(PN 1039) Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for enrollee wellness checks. Removes "able to be" from the language of the bill to establish a real-time, visibly seen and communicated with by a teacher requirement for cyber charter school students during a wellness check. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

07/08/2025

Actions

07/16/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - First consideration

07/17/2025 S - Second consideration

07/17/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

SB934 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in cyber charter schools, further providing for enrollment and notification.

Sponsor

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)

Summary

(PN 1056) Amends the Public School Code, in cyber charter schools, further providing for enrollment and notification. Establishes continued proof of a student's residence submission requirements by November 1 and by March 1 of each school year. Removes the seven-day time period provision for receipts from the language of the bill and removes language related to appealing the district's decision of residence. Requires notification from a newly enrolled cyber charter student to satisfy the deadlines. Allows the school to react to notice of nonresidential status at any time and requires it to make a final determination within 15 days. Adds that if the department determines that the student is not a resident of the school district, the department shall notify the cyber charter school of the student's proper district of residence. Allows employees to report suspected nonresident enrollees. Requires the school to investigate the good-faith report. Strikes language regarding the investigation of an employee's report and requires the school to make a determination within 15 days. Provides for the Whistleblower Law to cover potential employee reports. Requires proof of residency, outlining eligible documents, allowing for electronic notification forms. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1031)

Intro Date

07/08/2025

Actions

07/16/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - Reported as amended - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - First consideration

07/17/2025 S - Second consideration

07/17/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

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 2147) 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 prevention organization," and "involuntary servitude." Adds that institutions of higher education and private licensed schools may consult with a human trafficking prevention organization to develop and implement an education program. Provides that the department shall consult the Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect when creating a model education program or other resources to help schools fulfill this requirement. Adds that the department may consult with a human trafficking prevention 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: 1946, 531)

Intro Date

02/10/2025

Actions

07/16/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - Reported as amended - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - First consideration

07/17/2025 S - Second consideration

07/17/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

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

Sponsor

Rep. Tim Briggs (D)

Summary

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

Intro Date

03/17/2025

Actions

07/09/2025 H - Placed on HVS

07/14/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

07/14/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

07/14/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

07/14/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

HB1407 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in certification of teachers, further providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of department and providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels; and abrogating a regulation .

Sponsor

Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)

Summary

(PN 2106) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of department and providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels; and abrogating the regulations 22 Pa. Code § 49.85(c) and (d) are abrogated insofar as they are inconsistent with this act. Amends the heading for section 1202.1 to read as special education. Designates an expiration date for (b)(1)(i) of July 1, 2027. Provides the grade span and age level for primary instructional certificates issued after July 1, 2027, as prekindergarten, kindergarten, grades one through six or ages three through 11, secondary as grades seven through 12 or ages 12 through 21 and specialized areas as prekindergarten through grade 12 or ages three through 21, notwithstanding 22 Pa. Code § 49.85 (relating to limitations). Stipulates that certificates issued in accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 49.85(a), (b) and (d) shall remain valid for the term of the certificate. Establishes two pathways developed by the Department of Education for an individual holding an elementary/middle instructional certificate. Provides for the issuance of certificates. Adds that an approved educator preparation program shall be restricted from accepting new candidates seeking a certificate no later than July 1, 2027. Specifies that an educator holding an early childhood certificate may teach fifth and sixth grade, and an educator holding a secondary school certificate may teach sixth grade in the subject area for which the certificate is endorsed. Allows the secretary of education to adopt standards and guidelines, as well as grant exceptions to the grade and age level limitations. Outlines provisions for an approved educator preparation program. Defines "early childhood." Applies the amendment or addition of sections 1202.1 heading and (b)(1)(i) and 1202.2 of the act to the 2027-2028 academic year. Section 3 is effective July 1, 2027. The remainder of this act is effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1605)

Intro Date

05/05/2025

Actions

07/09/2025 H - Placed on HVS

07/14/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

07/14/2025 H - Re-reported as committed - House Appropriations

07/14/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

07/14/2025 H - Third consideration and final passage

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

07/16/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - First consideration

07/17/2025 S - Second consideration

07/17/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

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

07/16/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Education

07/16/2025 S - First consideration

07/17/2025 S - Second consideration

07/17/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations

Upcoming Events

No Upcoming Events this Week.

In the News

[07/14/2025 - Topper, Struzzi: Budget Needs to Be Negotiated, Prioritize Economic Growth](#)

[07/14/2025 - Senate Democratic Leaders Urge Senate Republicans to Act After House Passes Budget Bill](#)

[07/15/2025 - State Budget Spends Way Too Much, Pickett Says](#)

[07/15/2025 - Rapp: Rushed Budget Plan Amounts to 'Hurry Up and Wait'](#)

[07/15/2025 - Mustello Says 'No' to \\$50.6 Billion Tax-and-Spend Plan](#)

[07/15/2025 - Gebhard, Mastriano Introduce Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate School Property Taxes](#)

[07/15/2025 - Senator Lindsey M. Williams Issues Statement Criticizing Supreme Court Decision Allowing the Dismantling of Department of Education](#)

[07/15/2025 - Owlett Votes 'No' on \\$50.6 Billion Budget Proposal](#)

[07/15/2025 - Pugh: This Budget Proposal Does Not Represent All Pennsylvanians](#)

[07/15/2025 - Brown: State Budget is Irresponsible, Incomplete](#)

[07/15/2025 - Delozier Reacts, Voices Frustration Over Budget Gimmicks](#)

[07/15/2025 - Olsommer Disappointed with Budget Proposal](#)

[07/15/2025 - Statement on PA House Budget Vote- Marc Stier, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Policy Center](#)

[07/15/2025 - Kenyatta: Senate must move budget, critical bills to keep PA afloat](#)

[07/17/2025 - Senate Education Committee Passes Pennycuick Cyber School Reform Measures](#)

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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