

Sept. 5 – 11, 2025

Contents

Press Conferences.....	1
Committee News	2
Bullet.in.Points.....	5
Cosponsor Memos	6
Basic Ed Bill Actions	7
Higher Ed Bill Actions.....	13
Upcoming Events	13
In the News	14

SESSION STATUS

At 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 11, 2025, the House met briefly in non-voting session and now stands adjourned until Monday, September 22, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. for non-voting session, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 1:12 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, the Senate stands in recess 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

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.pls.gov/trac) users. For more information, contact sales@mypls.com.

Press Conferences

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

SHAPIRO APPROVES SEPTA FUNDING REQUEST, BUDGET ISSUES “NARROW”

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | September 8, 2025

Gov. Josh Shapiro provided a statement on transportation funding within the budget at a media availability in West Philadelphia today.

Gov. Shapiro announced that he directed the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) secretary, Mike Carroll, to approve the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority’s (SEPTA) request to use nearly \$400 million of their capital operations budget for operating expenses. He said the plan will preserve services for 800,000 Pennsylvanians for about two years. He highlighted how the transportation authority is vital to the functioning of the community. He reported that 63% of Philadelphia schools have experienced increased late arrivals of students, and 50% experienced higher rates of absenteeism. “That is not something we can allow to continue,” he said. Gov. Shapiro added that “millions” of people will be coming to Philadelphia next year as tourists arrive to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States. “I have repeatedly called on the legislature to act; this has gone on now for more than two years,” he said. He pointed out that the House has passed transportation funding five times. He stated that previously, when the Senate did not act, he flexed more than \$80 million in short-term revenue for SEPTA and then \$153 million in additional funds to the transportation authority.

Gov. Shapiro said he has concluded that Senate Republicans are unwilling to pass recurring revenue for SEPTA. He stated that following the recent court case, SEPTA was forced to find additional funds to provide stability for the next several years. “I am taking this action within my authority and the authority of the PennDOT secretary to support SEPTA,” he said. Gov. Shapiro noted the general manager of SEPTA highlighted that the action is different from the solution Senate Republicans forwarded. He pointed out the “flawed” Senate proposal would have required mass transit to use their capital funding to “fill the gap,” and there would not be a revenue source for the future. He added that the proposal would have taken half of SEPTA’s trust fund and directed it to road and bridge repairs in the rest of the state. Gov. Shapiro remarked that although he supports funding roads and bridges, the state will not use money designated for mass transit for that purpose. Gov. Shapiro added that the next few years will also allow SEPTA’s management to incorporate reforms to increase efficiency and reduce duplications. He stated that SEPTA will be reporting its progress towards that end to PennDOT. “I’m in the business of helping people and what we’ve witnessed over the last few weeks in Philadelphia and in the region where people cannot get to where they want to go, not being able to get to their jobs, not being able to be there for their families, students not being able to get to school, that is not okay and I’m not going to let to politics of Harrisburg and that state Senate continue to slow us down,” he said. Gov. Shapiro accused the Senate of working to “slow things down.” He stated that the “issue they have been highlighting as a reason not to get this done is now off the table.”

Gov. Shapiro said he worked with legislative leaders over the weekend. He commented that budget negotiations involved Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) because the passage of any budget will need to involve Democratic votes. He stated that staff and leaders will continue to meet. “It’s time to close this out,” he said.

Why couldn't there have been a compromise from the beginning between Democrats and Republicans to use some of that money from the public transit fund?

Gov. Shapiro reiterated that the Senate Republican proposal would have used capital funds that had already been "earmarked" for use, as well as taking a "50% discount on some of that money because they would have sent it to fund roads and bridges." He remarked that once the Senate Appropriations chairman announced that there would be no long-term funding deal, "it made no sense to continue to hold the people of this region hostage."

What's your plan for two years from now?

Gov. Shapiro said the funding will allow time for SEPTA to implement new changes as well as change the minds of some voters. He added that there may be "new people" in the Senate at that time who may be willing to help the state.

Is this the last holdout to get a full budget finished?

Gov. Shapiro said the list of issues has "really narrowed." He stated they are now discussing "minutia" of a \$50 billion budget. He urged leaders to bring their members to Harrisburg to close out the budget.

Do you expect the House or Senate to pass any legislation in the future to fund mass transit?

Gov. Shapiro said he expects a budget deal that will not include recurring funding for SEPTA but will include all other initiatives.

Is there concern, and what will you do should the president bring the National Guard to Philadelphia?

Gov. Shapiro said he believes what President Donald Trump is doing is wrong and he is working to inject chaos into communities. "I can tell you we are prepared should he try to do that in Philadelphia," the governor remarked.

What does that mean?

Gov. Shapiro said, "I'm not going to get into that." He added that he is prepared should the president bring the National Guard to any other place in Pennsylvania without his consent.

Are you concerned with some of the acts President Trump has taken regarding immigration that could influence the willingness of people to visit Philadelphia in 2026?

Gov. Shapiro said tourism has "dipped" in Pennsylvania and throughout the country due to President Trump's initiatives on immigration. He added that broader economic policies have increased prices in the United States, which has made things harder on families. "We are going to do everything we can at the state level to subsidize costs," he said.



Committee News

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

House Democratic Policy Committee

09/08/2025, 1:00 p.m., New Hope-Solebury High School, 182 W. Bridge Street, New Hope
Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held an informational meeting on civic education in Pennsylvania.

Rep. Tim Brennan (D-Bucks) thanked everyone attending the event, emphasizing the importance of civics and expressing concern over declining civic engagement and knowledge among young people. He highlighted the challenges posed by an entertainment society and artificial intelligence (AI) to democracy, stressing the importance of informed civic engagement. He detailed the crucial role of schools in imparting democratic values and preparing students for responsible citizenship, citing inadequacies in current educational practices. He referenced Act 35, aimed at improving civic knowledge, but noted its shortcomings and recognized ongoing proposals to enhance civic education.

Mark Schweiker, former Pennsylvania governor, thanked Rep. Brennan for organizing the event and shared observations from his experience with over 100 students who attended a talk with him and Rep. Brennan. He highlighted the students' enthusiasm and understanding of the importance of civics. He emphasized the significance of civic education and engagement, particularly highlighting the America 250 PA effort and its importance as a civics lesson. He praised the initiative for being advanced compared to other states in this subject area. He stressed the importance of integrating practical civics education into K-12 schooling,

commending the efforts of those involved in promoting civic awareness and education.

James Gerlach, former U.S. Congressman (R-PA), introduced PA Civics, the bipartisan nonprofit focused on advancing civics education in Pennsylvania, co-chaired by himself and Joe Hoeffel. He highlighted the Committee of Seventy's (C70) role as the lead administrative partner and discussed the organization's formation in response to Act 35, aimed at enhancing civics education. He critiqued Act 35 for its lack of uniformity in advancing civics education across the state and explained PA Civics' focus on four primary areas to improve civics education.

Joe Hoeffel, former U.S. Congressman (D-PA), outlined four steps to improve Pennsylvania's civics education, including upgrading academic standards, making Act 35 more consistent, providing additional support for teachers and recognizing excellence in civics education through civic seals. He noted the three pillars for a good civics education, which include knowledge, skills and action. He emphasized the importance of critical thinking and analysis in navigating misleading information, particularly from social media, and highlighted the noble nature of government and public service. He suggested updating the academic standards for history, social studies and civics, which have not been revised in 20 years. He referenced the Thomas Fordham Institute's study, which graded Pennsylvania's civics program an F. He called for improvements to Act 35, making it more consistent and uniform, helping teachers through more training, resources, counseling and support and honoring the teachers and students who make the effort to advance civic education in the commonwealth.

Gerlach spoke about the importance of civics education in building great citizens and expressed optimism about bipartisan efforts to enhance civics education in Pennsylvania. He cited a 2022 survey showing strong support for civics teaching and recognized ongoing discussions with legislative leaders to improve civics education.

Rep. Robert Freeman (D-Northampton) emphasized the importance of instilling critical thinking and analysis in students to navigate misleading information from various sources, including social media, and stressed the need for education that encourages critical evaluation of information. He asked about the best way to get students to think critically about the information given to them and how to produce a better educational product. Gerlach stated that 42 states were considering approximately 163 bills related to civics education as of spring 2025, with a focus on information literacy. He highlighted the importance of students being able to objectively analyze information and think critically about it. He suggested resources from state legislative organizations like the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) to understand the legislation being considered in different states. Hoeffel spoke about the use of subversive activity in which students are given enough information today to make a decision on what is correct. He noted the changes in politics which has made the environment more toxic, with less respect across party lines. He emphasized that with improvements in civics education there is a chance these issues will decrease over time.

Rep. Regina Young (D-Philadelphia) emphasized the importance of civic education and its challenges, seeking recommendations for effectively introducing it amidst potential societal conflicts. Gerlach discussed the need for a grade-appropriate civic education in Pennsylvania, supported by the State Board of Education and aimed at improving student proficiency by 2037. Hoeffel highlighted the importance of introducing civic education early, based on his experience with his granddaughter's second-grade class.

Rep. Brennan read a question from a young attendee asking about how the panel would attempt to convince someone to vote for the first time. Rep. Young suggested asking non-voters about their interests to explain the impact of their vote they want to see. Rep. Mary Isaacson (D-Philadelphia) emphasized the importance of participating in elections to ensure one's voice is heard, even if the voter does not like the outcome. Gerlach shared his experience of winning an election by a narrow margin to illustrate the importance of every vote. Hoeffel expressed the importance of voting to have a say in who will win a close election. Rep. Joseph Hohenstein (D-Philadelphia) stressed the importance of participating in elections to have a say in government decisions and control one's future.

Rep. Brennan asked another student's question to the panel about what made them interested in getting involved in politics. Hoeffel attributed his interest to opposition to the Vietnam War during college. Gerlach noted his interest in political science in college and recognized his work in a state legislator's office as what led him to enter politics. Rep. Melissa Cerrato (D-Montgomery) shared her journey into politics, initially resisting involvement but eventually finding fulfillment in helping people through her role. She explained that in 2022, she ran for and won her seat by a narrow margin, contributing to flipping the Pennsylvania House blue, emphasizing the importance of stepping up for change. Rep. Nikki Rivera (D-Lancaster) discussed her initial political involvement in 2015, motivated by cuts to arts and music programs in her children's school district, emphasizing her commitment to public schools.

Lauren Cristella, president and CEO, C70, highlighted the need for improved civic education in Pennsylvania. She cited inadequate civic standards about "setting aside democratic principles" among Gen-Z respondents. She recognized surveys that showed the willingness of young people to learn how the government works. She proposed updates to state social studies standards and investment in teacher support to help equip students with the knowledge, skills and experiences to become active citizens.

Shannon Salter Burghardt, educator, Allentown School District, emphasized the importance of preparing students for civic life through education, highlighting her 15-year experience as a high school social studies teacher. She advocated for civics education that equips students for active participation. She discussed her involvement in supporting non-traditional teaching candidates preparing for their social studies licenses. She spoke about her partnership with C70, which has helped her integrate more civics education into her classroom. She highlighted challenges Pennsylvania faces, urging a renewed focus on civics education. She criticized the reliance on standardized tests for evaluating civics knowledge. She discussed the seal of civic literacy as a recognition of students' civic competence. She emphasized the importance of strengthening the state's civic support requirements while prioritizing information and media literacy.

Rep. Hohenstein discussed the need for immediate educational reforms to address the current crisis in civic engagement, questioning the effectiveness of waiting for long-term solutions. Cristella emphasized the importance of civic education for the health of democracy in Pennsylvania, detailing C70's efforts to improve civic engagement through resources like the "How Philly Works" guide and its expansions, including translations and educational materials for broader community outreach. Burghardt highlighted her approach to engaging students in democracy through maps showing disparities in voter turnout and federal aid distribution. She stressed the importance of not viewing youth disengagement as apathy. She advocated for immediate actions to involve young people in civic spaces to establish trust.

Rep. Peter Schweyer (D-Lehigh), chairman, House Education Committee, emphasized the importance of civic engagement and education. He encouraged students to share their perspectives on civics education deficiencies and propose improvements by reaching out to their local representatives.

Rep. Tina Davis (D-Bucks) shared a personal anecdote about her high school involvement with the Green Party. She underscored the significant influence of teachers and mentors on young people and encouraged student involvement in civic activities. Burghardt shared her experiences of getting involved in politics through a teacher and her family. She discussed the role of educators in fostering faith in civil institutions and the challenges they face today. She called for support and documentation from the commonwealth to ensure comprehensive civic education for students.

Rep. Darisha Parker (D-Philadelphia) discussed her efforts with Rep. Brennan to engage young people in politics, sharing personal stories and emphasizing the need to make the political process more engaging. She referred to using the idea of banning TikTok as a way to spark interest in civic discussions with young people. She highlighted a video by Yellow Pain called "My Vote Don't Count" to illustrate young people's political engagement and how social media can be used to educate them on the importance of civics. Cristella talked about a briefing for influencers and content creators to provide nuanced understandings of election processes, scheduled for September 24. She highlighted the importance of adapting to where younger audiences get their information. She spoke about a potential grant from the William Penn Foundation to increase outreach, especially to black influencers in Philadelphia. Burghardt emphasized the importance of integrating new forms of media into the classroom to develop students' civic skills. She expressed concern about Pennsylvania's outdated social studies standards for not including media literacy. She argued for updating these standards to reflect the importance of media literacy in empowering students for civil discourse.

Rep. Brennan asked about the challenges teachers face with the outdated civics curriculum and how to keep up with current educational needs. Burghardt explained the challenges teachers face due to the lack of clear guidance in curriculum planning, leading to a reliance on familiar subjects. She referenced a student's complaint about learning about the Boston Tea Party for seven years. She shared her experience in guiding a curriculum rewrite in the Allentown School District and urged for updated standards to provide a more comprehensive curriculum. Cristella highlighted the disparity in preparation time between subjects due to the lack of a set curriculum in social studies, highlighting the need for support in these areas. Burghardt highlighted the financial disparity in educational support, with significantly less funding for social studies and civics compared to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects. Cristella discussed the organization's efforts to support teachers with trustworthy materials, acknowledging the effort required to integrate these resources into the curriculum.

Rep. Brennan asked about potential partnerships and activities to make civics education more engaging for students. Burghardt emphasized recognizing and celebrating existing community activities as forms of civic engagement. She advocated for the use of a civic seal to acknowledge these contributions, including educational visits and meetings with stakeholders. Cristella detailed the 17-year-old Poll Worker Program, which compensates students for working 13 hours during the two elections each school year and is recognized by school districts as fulfilling a volunteer service requirement. She explained the program is accepted in Philadelphia and many other counties, with Bucks County offering notable support through its "Youth in the Booth" program. Burghardt talked about the positive outcomes of the governor's engagement award in Lehigh County, which facilitated the participation of student poll workers and the reopening of previously closed polling places. She emphasized that this initiative has increased student excitement about federal processes and led to a higher number of voter registration requests, contributing to a "joyful community of civic life by opening doors to students and letting them in."



House Appropriations Committee

09/10/2025, 2:00 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider a bill.

[SB 160](#) - (PN 529) 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. Section 8101 shall take effect immediately. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Charity Grimm Krupa (R-Fayette) pointed out that the budget is more than two months late, which is “flat-out unacceptable.” She criticized politicians for “dragging their feet” to fund schools, counties, home health agencies, children and youth departments and more. She noted that some schools have been forced to take loans to pay teachers, and some home health agencies may suspend services. “This is a direct result of our failure to do our most basic job, fund the commonwealth,” she said. Rep. Krupa commented that if the legislature would have eliminated fraud, waste and abuse, the flat-funded budget would have been sufficient. “The problem isn’t the amount, it’s how Harrisburg spends it,” she said. Rep. Krupa added that the House could have passed SB 160 a month ago.

Minority Chairman Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana) emphasized the importance of funding state and county resources. “While we could have done this several weeks ago, I think it’s important that we are here today to move this forward,” he said.

Chairman Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia) emphasized that the House Appropriations Committee has advanced several important pieces of legislation while the Senate has not. He highlighted that the bill will be used as a vehicle “so that we can drop in the numbers and so that we can get a budget done.” He highlighted that the bill “was not a serious document when it was sent to us,” but the House will amend it with updated figures in the “near future.”



Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO2658 - Protecting Foster and Kinship Children Through Safe School Enrollment

Sponsor

Rep. Charity Grimm Krupa (R)

Summary

Requires all children in foster care or kinship care placements to be enrolled and attend public school or a licensed private school.

Intro Date

09/09/2025

Last Action

09/10/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2659 - Prohibiting consideration of charter and cyber charter school applications that provide direct instruction via AI

Sponsor

Rep. Nikki Rivera (D)

Summary

Prohibits a charter authorizer from considering applications to renew or create a charter school or cyber charter school that relies on artificial intelligence as a primary delivery system to instruct students.

Intro Date

09/10/2025

Last Action

09/10/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2665 - Helping to Make Youth Sports More Affordable

Sponsor

Rep. Joe Hogan (R)

Summary

Establishes a tax credit of up to \$3,000 for parents of Pennsylvania primary and secondary students participating in youth sports to offset the costs of qualifying expenses, including equipment, travel costs and team fees.

Intro Date

09/10/2025

Last Action

09/10/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

Basic Ed Bill Actions**HB179 - An Act authorizing the provision or sale of Pennsylvania milk in Pennsylvania schools.****Sponsor**

Rep. John A. Lawrence (R)

Summary

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

Intro Date

03/10/2025

Actions

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

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

06/16/2025 H - First consideration

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

09/10/2025 H - Laid on the table

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

07/14/2025 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

07/23/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Health and Human Services

09/10/2025 H - Press Conference on Suicide Prevention Day

HB1850 - An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for teacher tax credit.

Sponsor

Rep. Ed Neilson (D)

Summary

(PN 2286) Amends the Tax Reform Code, providing for teacher tax credit. Adds definitions. Requires the Department of Education to annually provide to the Department of Revenue (DOR) a list of all individuals who were certified teachers during the taxable year. Outlines the ineligibility criteria. Adds that the amount of the taxpayer is not entitled to carry forward, carry back, sell or assign all or a portion of the tax credit. Establishes a tax credit equal to 50% of the amount of the federal tax deduction claimed by the taxpayer. Adds that the application is based on the manner prescribed by DOR and allows DOR to promulgate regulations. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

09/05/2025

Actions

09/05/2025 H - Introduced

09/09/2025 H - Referred to - House Finance

HB1861 - 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 firefighter and emergency service training.

Sponsor

Rep. Dan Moul (R)

Summary

No summary available yet.

Intro Date

09/11/2025

Actions

09/11/2025 H - Introduced

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

06/23/2025 S - Laid on the table

06/23/2025 S - Removed from table

09/10/2025 S - Laid on the table

09/10/2025 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

06/23/2025 S - Laid on the table

06/23/2025 S - Removed from table

09/10/2025 S - Laid on the table

09/10/2025 S - Removed from table

SB160 - An Act to provide 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.

Sponsor

Sen. Scott Martin (R)

Summary

(PN 529) 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. Section 8101 shall take effect immediately. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later.

Intro Date

04/03/2025

Actions

09/10/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Appropriations

09/11/2025 H - Reported as committed - House Appropriations

09/11/2025 H - First consideration

09/11/2025 H - Laid on the table

09/12/2025 H - Placed on HVS

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

07/17/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

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

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

09/10/2025 S - Press Conference on Suicide Prevention Day

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 1151) 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. Extends the length of time for the board to promulgate rules and regulations from 12 months to 14 months. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1053)

Intro Date

07/15/2025

Actions

09/08/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

09/09/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations

09/09/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate Appropriations

09/09/2025 S - Third consideration and final passage

09/10/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

Higher Ed Bill Actions

HB1849 - An Act providing for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creating causes of action for harm suffered by designation.

Sponsor

Rep. Clint Owlett (R)

Summary

(PN 2285) The Dads Defending Daughters Act provides for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creates causes of action for harm suffered by designation. Provides definitions. Requires interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic teams or sports that are sponsored by a public school entity, a public institution of higher education or any school or institution where students or teams compete against a public school entity or institution of higher education must be expressly designated as either male, men or boys, female, women or girls, or coed or mixed. Prohibits teams designated as females, women or girls from being open to students of the male sex. Provides protections for educational institutions from government entities, licensing or accrediting organizations or an athletic association or organization entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation or taking any other adverse action for maintaining separate interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic teams for students of the female sex. Provides for cause of action for deprivation of opportunity, retaliation and the school's cause of action. Establishes limitations of later than two years after the day on which the harm underlying the cause of action occurs to bring a civil action. Provides for the severability of the act. Effective immediately.

SB492 - An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in suicide prevention in institutions of higher education, further providing for definitions and providing for required suicide prevention and crisis management information.

Sponsor

Sen. Nick Miller (D)

Summary

(PN 447) Amends Title 24 (Education), in suicide prevention in institutions of higher education, further providing for definitions and providing for required suicide prevention and crisis management information. Provides definitions. Requires institutes of higher education to have specified resources with contact information on both digital and physical identification cards for students. Mandates the Department of Health provide notice of any telephone number changes in the resource contact information the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication. Provides procedure for institutes of higher education to annually review and update the resource contact information. Requires institutes of higher education who do not hand out identification cards to otherwise distribute the resource contact information to students. Prohibits this section from being construed as allowing institutes of higher education to reissue unexpired identification cards. Effective in 60 days.

Upcoming Events

MONDAY - 09/22/2025

12:00 PM, PA Press Club Luncheon with Aaron Chapin, President of PSEA
Press Conference, Hilton Harrisburg and Towers, One N 2nd St., Harrisburg

11:00 AM, [House Education](#)

Public Hearing, Easy Passyunk Community Center, 1025 Mifflin Street, Philadelphia
Public hearing on school facilities and [HB 1701](#)

TUESDAY - 10/07/2025

1:00 PM, PIEA Scholastic Day at the Capitol

Press Conference, Harrisburg Capitol Complex

In the News

[09/08/2025 - Pa Family Support Alliance accepting nominations for 2026 Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids Awards](#)

[09/08/2025 - PUC Supports Digital Connectivity and Lifeline Awareness Week](#)

[09/08/2025 - PASSHE and Google Expand Partnership with New AI Training for Students](#)

[09/09/2025 - Senators McCormick, Fetterman Write Pennsylvania College Presidents on Campus Antisemitism](#)

[09/10/2025 - State Budget Progress](#)

[09/11/2025 - Impact of School District Property Tax Elimination and Higher PIT Rate](#)

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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