

Education Recap



Sept. 12 – 18, 2025

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

Press Conferences

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

GOV. SHAPIRO ANNOUNCES CREATION OF JOBS THROUGH B. BRAUN EXPANSION

By Daniel Sachetta, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | September 18, 2025

Gov. Josh Shapiro held a press conference today at B. Braun of America's campus in Lehigh Valley to announce an expansion of B. Braun's footprint in Pennsylvania.

Rob Albert, CEO, B. Braun of America, welcomed Gov. Shapiro and others back to B. Braun's facility, recalling the last visit three years ago for the company's expansion project. He emphasized the importance of growing business in Lehigh Valley, announcing an investment of \$20 million over the next three years to create new jobs and address the need for life-sustaining infusion products and therapy equipment. He recognized Lehigh Valley as an area with a long history of finding skilled workers and a quality of life and culture needed to retain talent at the company. He thanked his employees across Pennsylvania for their hard work and expressed excitement for the new apprentices who represent the next generation of skilled talent.

Gov. Shapiro addressed yesterday's tragic shooting in York County that resulted in three law enforcement officers' deaths and two injuries. He emphasized his respect for the policing profession and acknowledged the sacrifices of officers and their families. He assured law enforcement officials of his administration's support and appreciation for them and their families. Gov. Shapiro discussed the importance of law enforcement in ensuring public safety, which facilitates innovation and job creation in communities like the Lehigh Valley. He celebrated B. Braun's growth and its nearly \$200 million investment in local suppliers. He recalled his previous visit to the facility, where he saw the optimism and hard work of the employees. He highlighted the importance of apprenticeship programs in Pennsylvania, noting a doubling of investment to support the creation of these programs, like the one at B. Braun. He recognized a current apprentice and thanked her for her hard work. He emphasized the importance of focusing on the five pillars of economic development, one of which is life sciences. He praised the company's contribution to the medical manufacturing industry and the life sciences sector in Pennsylvania.

Tessa McLean, apprentice, B. Braun of America, spoke about her experience as a second-generation B. Braun employee and a third-generation tradeswoman. She explained how she was able to work her way up through the company, starting as a technician four years ago. She detailed her goals to become a process engineer, skilled in trades and in the process of how things work and can improve. She thanked Gov. Shapiro, B. Braun and Northampton County Community College for the opportunity to go back to school and learn under some of the best technicians in the region through these investments.

Sec. Rick Siger, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), expressed appreciation for the leadership of public and private civic leaders in the Lehigh Valley for their work on this investment. He explained that life science companies like B. Braun are growing and creating jobs in Pennsylvania, from startups to international global manufacturers, which have accounted for more than 100,000 jobs and \$62 billion in direct economic impact for the commonwealth. He detailed this investment as one step to help B. Braun expand, as well as grow

the life sciences industry and the supply chain partners around the state. He emphasized this investment as just one of the ways Pennsylvania will be more competitive across all job sectors.

Don Cunningham, president and CEO, Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation, expressed appreciation for McLean sharing her story as a third-generation tradeswoman from Lehigh Valley. He detailed that 70% of the jobs created in Lehigh Valley have been from companies growing organically and retaining their employees. He thanked Gov. Shapiro and his administration for their commitment to the Lehigh Valley and economic development.

Sen. Nick Miller (D-Lehigh) stated that Lehigh Valley has a 50% higher density of manufacturing compared to the national average. He noted the long history of companies like B. Braun and countless investments for reasons why the region is so popular. He spoke about the need to see more progress in connecting industry partners with educational institutions, which he said Gov. Shapiro has begun to do. He acknowledged Lehigh Valley as one of the fastest-growing regions in the commonwealth, expressing excitement to continue working on issues of this nature.

Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton) thanked Gov. Shapiro for his commitment to the Lehigh Valley region and companies like B. Braun. She recognized his work on economic development, detailing how it has positively impacted the region. She emphasized the importance of investing in companies like B. Braun, which are the “backbone of a strong economy.” She looked forward to working with Gov. Shapiro on more important issues across the commonwealth.

Gov. Shapiro detailed the hard work of Sens. Miller and Boscola, who fought to make investments into public education and apprenticeship programs, which are now connecting to economic development in the region.

With regard to the incident in York County, how are the two officers doing this morning, and at this point in time, where does the investigation go from here?

Gov. Shapiro stated he would not comment on the investigation at this time. He explained the two officers were described as being in critical but stable condition by medical professionals but expected to make a full recovery. He asked everyone to keep them in their prayers. He thanked the physicians at WellSpan for the great job they did to help save these officers.

Can you confirm the identity of the shooter?

Gov. Shapiro stated he would not confirm the identity of any of the parties involved and would leave that to the District Attorney and local law enforcement. He thanked Col. Chris Paris and the Pennsylvania State Police for their work on the investigation and the situation at hand. He noted these leaders would speak to the specifics of the investigation going forward.

How can this incident make a change and help police better respond to and investigate domestic situations?

Gov. Shapiro emphasized the importance of not getting ahead of the investigation, stating officials will speak about what occurred and what lessons can be drawn from it at a later time.

Can you give an update on the budget with the transit deals that were made last week?

Gov. Shapiro replied that he proposed his budget 226 days ago with clear priorities established, highlighting that the Republican leadership in the Senate has only convened the body for less than 30 days. He expressed frustration that the legislature has not done its job of putting a budget on his desk. He detailed that the Senate needs to figure out how to get a package together that will get 26 votes and also pass in the House. He emphasized the difficult nature of having a divided legislature but noted that all parties need to compromise. He explained that both parties know the specific differences, and “it is up to them to make the tough decisions.” He emphasized that at some point, the legislature needs to “show up for work and vote on the budget.” He expressed hope that a budget would be signed soon.

Your administration approved transit funding for southeastern Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh. What is in store for smaller authorities like the one in Lehigh Valley?

Gov. Shapiro spoke about his goal to get recurring funding for all mass transit across Pennsylvania, emphasizing the importance of the issue. He stated that “Republican leaders in the Senate made it clear they would not pass recurring funding for mass transit,” so the administration was forced to adjust funding of capital dollars available for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) and Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) to use for operations over the next few years. He expressed hope that the Senate will rethink its opposition to recurring revenue and fund critical mass transit agencies like the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) in the near future.



GOV. SHAPIRO HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNITY SAFETY PROGRESS

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | September 17, 2025

Gov. Josh Shapiro was joined by local officials and state law enforcement to highlight the administration's public safety efforts at a press conference in Chester today.

Jack Stollsteimer, district attorney, Delaware County, said he began his term in January of 2020 with a promise to control the "out of control" gun violence that was plaguing Chester County. He praised Gov. Shapiro for his contribution to the effort, including an investment of \$2.6 million in the Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to fund community projects and law enforcement. He compared the governor to Howie Roseman, the general manager of the Philadelphia Eagles. He noted a "significant" decrease in gun-related homicides in Chester during his term, including zero gun-related homicides during the summer of 2025.

Gov. Shapiro noted that William Penn landed in Chester in October of 1682. "He had a vision that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would be warm and welcoming for all people," he said. He praised Delaware County officials and law enforcement for their "yeoman's work" in curtailing gun violence. He also thanked Sen. John Kane (D-Delaware) and Rep. Carol Kazeem (D-Delaware) for their roles in procuring funds for the area. He noted that Chester used to have one of the highest per capita murder rates in the country. "Public safety is a core, foundational responsibility of any leader," he said. "I will take a backseat to no one when it comes to public safety, particularly in Chester." He said during his term as Attorney General, he deployed a gun violence task force and a strategic response team to Chester in order to assist law enforcement. He discussed his past efforts to fight gun violence, including closing the "ghost gun" loophole and arresting gun traffickers. He cited statistics claiming a 42% decrease in fatal gun violence during his term as governor, along with an overall 11% decrease in crime. He urged citizens to trust local law enforcement while emphasizing the need for properly trained police officers.

Col. Christopher Paris, Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), said public safety is a "profound responsibility" that law enforcement takes seriously every day. He discussed the required coordination between law enforcement, community leaders, educators and families in order for a community to thrive. "These trends represent more than statistics," he said. "They signify safer streets, fewer lives lost and greater peace of mind for the communities that we serve."

Derrick Billups, Sr., CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Chester, said the Boys & Girls Club has been a staple of the Chester community for over 95 years. He said increased financial support has allowed for extended operations on weekends to give kids a safe place to grow. He said the improvements in Chester are a result of a collaborative effort in the community.

Chester Mayor Stefan Roots called the current set of community partnerships "extraordinary." He praised Chester residents for their contributions to public safety. "The citizens of Chester have been ignored for so long," he said. "I just want to make a special note to recognize the citizens of Chester and their contribution to the results that are happening in their own community."

The press conference opened to questions from the media.

Could you go into more detail about the summer initiatives?

Stollsteimer said law enforcement was placed in high-crime areas for preventative purposes. He also discussed increased investment in community activities, including neighborhood parties.

Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner hosted town halls this week to prepare people in the event of the National Guard being deployed to the city. Do you believe there's any imminent threat of the White House deploying the National Guard in Philadelphia? How would that process work?

Gov. Shapiro replied that he was not aware of Krasner's activities. He said as Commander-in-Chief of the Pennsylvania National Guard, he can deploy troops within the borders of the commonwealth. He noted that the Pennsylvania National Guard has been deployed during extreme weather events, along with deployments to the southern border of the United States, the Horn of Africa and to Germany to train Ukrainian soldiers in their war against Russia. He explained the president is allowed by law to commandeer the National Guard and deploy it at their direction. "I think that it is dangerous when a Commander-in-Chief of the United States tries to usurp power from the Commander-in-Chief of a state," he said. "I hope that it will not get to that here in Pennsylvania." He added that the commonwealth is "preparing aggressively" for the situation if it were to arise. He said he was not aware of any current efforts of the White House to do so. He encouraged President Donald Trump to come to Chester and see how to reduce crime by investing in community programs and law enforcement. "What we don't want is the federal government stepping in and making it harder to build trust in communities," he said.

Can you discuss the backlash following the assassination of Charlie Kirk, specifically around people who have spoken out about it?

Gov. Shapiro reiterated that political violence in any form is “unacceptable.” He denounced several incidents of political violence that have taken place in the past year, including the assassination of Charlie Kirk, the assassination of Minnesota state representative Melissa Hortman, the arson at the governor’s mansion in Harrisburg, the attempted assassination of President Trump in Butler and the murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson. He stressed that political violence is committed by people of varying political beliefs. “It is dangerous when the president cherry picks which forms of political violence are seemingly okay and which are not,” he said. “We need healing in America right now.” He decried censorship as an answer to political violence, arguing that “more speech” is the answer.

During his town hall, Krasner referred to MAGA Republicans as “fascists” and referenced Adolf Hitler. What do you make of this comment?

Gov. Shapiro responded that he had not seen the clip but said he could watch it to give a better answer. He said “name-calling” and divisive rhetoric are consistent with people who “fail the leadership test.” He stressed the importance of bringing the temperature down in the country.

People perceive Democrats as soft on crime. How do you respond to that?

Gov. Shapiro reiterated that he “takes a backseat to no one” on crime. He said Democrats are proud to support law and order and have the results to speak to it. He noted the additional hiring of 1,500 more police officers during his term and decreases in crime statewide. He criticized the president for pardoning January 6 rioters, saying that they “stormed the Capitol and assaulted cops.” He said he was proud of his record on crime and justice in Pennsylvania.

Are you confident that the “temperature” can be brought down, given the current climate in America?

Gov. Shapiro said he was optimistic due to what he has seen from Pennsylvanians, not from what he has seen from other leaders. “My family and I were victims of political violence,” he said. “What we saw in the immediate aftermath was just the goodness of people.” He continued that he will bet on his fellow citizens to “rise above the darkness and do good.” He said he was “disturbed” by the conduct of some leaders across America but was more hopeful than ever because of the people who make up the country.



Committee News

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

Senate Democratic Policy Committee

*09/16/2025, 10:00 a.m., Pleasant Ridge Housing Community, 251 Jefferson Drive, Stowe Twp.
Pennsylvania Legislative Services*

The committee held a public hearing on Pennsylvania’s housing affordability issues and potential solutions.

Chairman Nick Miller (D-Lehigh) introduced the issue of housing affordability throughout Pennsylvania, mentioning the commonwealth is “short more than 100,000 units.” He noted the Senate Democratic Caucus’s intention to prioritize this issue.

Richard Stephenson, executive director, Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA), discussed initiatives to enhance affordable housing and raise tax values. He pointed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Section 18 scattered site disposition program as a model. Stephenson stated the program allows public housing units to be converted into vouchers while placing families in single-family homes rather than large complexes. Stephenson explained the approach aims to revitalize neighborhoods by purchasing vacant homes, temporarily using them as public housing and eventually selling them to residents with Section 8 vouchers that can cover mortgages. He said this strategy not only promotes homeownership and self-sufficiency but also returns properties to the tax rolls, boosting funding for distressed schools and local services.

Sen. Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny) reflected on past efforts to integrate single-family homes into neighborhoods and the ongoing concerns with Section 8 housing, particularly regarding “oversight and enforcement” issues with landlords. Stephenson highlighted the effectiveness of the Section 8 Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program and HUD’s commitment to educating residents about FSS and Section 8 homeownership programs.

Sen. Nick Pisciotano (D-Allegheny) praised the HUD Housing Choice Voucher Program for providing a path to homeownership and asked about the limiting factors hindering the program's growth. Stephenson discussed the challenges and needs associated with educating residents about HUD programs aimed at self-sufficiency and home ownership. He highlighted the lack of funding for resident services and the necessity of in-person outreach. Stephenson pointed out the insufficient HUD funding for purchasing single-family homes and suggested separate state funding could help with community development and generate real estate taxes.

Sen. Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) asked about the tools available to incentivize participation in self-sufficiency programs and the actions that can be taken if individuals choose not to participate. He questioned how to motivate individuals to progress from investing in a mortgage to a Section 8 scenario. Stephenson discussed the challenges of managing and educating nearly 10,000 families in Allegheny County. He emphasized the need for more personnel to expedite the educational process. Stephenson mentioned successful partnerships, such as a program with DeWitt Walton, a former Pennsylvania senator, that guarantees jobs for graduates. Stephenson highlighted a potential collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) for internships and community service opportunities.

Ed Nusser, director of housing strategy, the Office of Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato, talked about the county's initiatives to address housing affordability and supply. He highlighted the success of the "500in500 initiative," which aimed to house 500 people in 500 days. Nusser stated that the goal has been surpassed, with 98% of participants remaining stably housed. He mentioned the creation of eviction prevention ecosystems and First Home Allegheny, a down payment assistance program. Nusser added that it has helped 28 first-time buyers in its first four months but noted the demand outpaces available funding. Nusser advocated for a systemic approach to addressing the housing crisis, involving public-private partnerships.

Chairman Miller discussed legislative efforts in Harrisburg, including the Whole-Home Repairs Program (WHRP) and a proposed \$10 million line item for a first-time home buyer grant program. He expressed concerns about the impact of private equity and large corporate ownership of housing, particularly the competition from cash buyers out of state. Chairman Miller asked if the 7.95% corporate ownership rate in the housing market has increased since COVID-19. Nusser confirmed the percentage of corporate ownership of single-family homes has increased and highlighted a report by Pitt's Center for Social and Urban Research. He explained the issue of three large corporate owners in Allegheny County with high eviction rates, "SFR3, VineBrook and Segavepo."

Sen. Fontana discussed the challenges of competing with out-of-town entities buying homes and emphasized the importance of expanding land banks as an alternative for residents. He mentioned the need for dedicated funding sources for land banks and stressed the need for an organized action plan to address these issues effectively. Nusser discussed Allegheny County's exploration of a county-wide land bank and land recycling system to address housing supply, blight and reinvestment challenges across 130 municipalities. He mentioned the solicitation of requests for proposals (RFPs) last month for developing a business plan for this initiative. Sen. Fontana emphasized the importance of leveraging relationships with federal housing programs and organizations to rehabilitate homes for affordable housing in Pittsburgh and McKees Rocks. He stressed the challenge of utilizing these relationships to address housing issues.

Sen. Pisciotano expressed concerns about corporate ownership of housing and its impact on Allegheny County, including high rents and vacant homes. He asked about measures at the state level to empower local municipalities or the county to address this issue. Sen. Pisciotano suggested enhanced zoning or occupancy standards or a statewide ban. Nusser discussed the challenges faced by municipalities in Allegheny County, including insufficient staffing for zoning and code enforcement. He highlighted state-funded pilot programs to enhance local code enforcement capabilities and mentioned the initiative to create a zoning library to assist municipalities. Nusser referenced policies from other states, such as flipper taxes, to discourage rapid property transactions. Sen. Pisciotano agreed with exploring state support for local code enforcement and financial disincentives for large corporations.

Stephenson discussed the potential changes in public housing and Section 8 policies, including a possible work requirement similar to the welfare-to-work program. He emphasized the importance of preparing residents for this requirement to prevent an increase in homelessness.

Sen. Costa thanked the Innamorato administration for their collaborative efforts in housing and human services and highlighted the importance of a holistic approach to these issues. He mentioned awaiting feedback on a query about a "flipping tax" and expressed concern about the federal impact on Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects in Pennsylvania. Nusser said it is "too soon" to gauge the full impact of the federal budget. He stated the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) subcommittee has suggested eliminating the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, a funding source for LIHTC projects. Nusser mentioned an expansion of LIHTC could be undermined if corporate tax rates drop, reducing the value of tax credits and leaving even larger financing gaps. He explained new HUD grant conditions that would force applicants to abandon housing-first models and restrict services for people with behavioral health and substance use challenges. Nusser continued that the new rules also included mandates to fully comply with "federal immigration activity" and to "make every grantee affirm that there's only a gender binary of male and female."

James Eash, real estate development director, ACTION-Housing Inc., discussed the organization's efforts in affordable housing development in Allegheny County. He mentioned ACTION-Housing includes supportive services, such as weatherization, foreclosure prevention, rental assistance and programs for seniors, veterans and youth aging out of foster care. Eash highlighted the organization's real estate development, with more than 4,500 units built or preserved since 1985 and about 2,000 currently owned. Eash noted challenges including limited developable land, restrictive zoning and increasingly complex financing requirements. He advocated for expanded state programs such as the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) program, state housing tax credits and the Home Preservation Program.

Dr. Howard Slaughter, president and CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh (Habitat), highlighted the importance of housing in the economy and personal wealth. He highlighted a Pew Research Center survey showing 69% of Americans are concerned about housing costs. Slaughter noted Pennsylvania's overall homeownership rate is 72% and "for minorities, it's far below that" at 43%. He described Habitat's model, which combines home construction with zero-interest mortgages and "sweat equity" requirements for families. Slaughter advocated for codifying the state housing action plan, expanding funding for eviction legal aid, streamlining zoning and permitting, strengthening land bank operations and offering more support for first-time and minority homeowners.

Jason Tigano, founder and CEO, LEVEL: Equity Building (LEVEL), emphasized the need for public-private partnerships and substantial funding for home ownership initiatives. He stated LEVEL aims to develop 1,000 housing units in 10 years, with plans to expand statewide. Tigano highlighted differences in homeownership rates, with Pennsylvania averaging about 70%, and pointed to housing instability affecting local school districts. Tigano emphasized the need for large-scale investment in affordable homeownership and highlighted pending [legislation](#) to create a dedicated state funding source. He described partnerships with housing authorities, public-private collaborations and workforce programs as key to expanding affordable housing supply.

Slaughter suggested developing incentives for private developers to include affordable housing in their projects through density bonuses. "Density bonuses allow developers to build more houses in zoning areas, typically where they would not be permitted, provided a percentage is set aside for affordable housing," he explained.

Sen. Lindsey Williams (D-Allegheny) asked about potential improvements to the PHARE program. Eash responded that the program is effective and flexible, suggesting only the need for funding. Slaughter emphasized the importance of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's (PHFA) PHARE program being "demystified" through better education and communication. Sen. Williams mentioned the Waterfront Development Tax Credit (WDTC) and asked how it could be improved. Eash explained that ACTION-Housing has not effectively utilized the WDTC program. He emphasized the importance of multiple tools for addressing housing issues and suggested expanding WDTC could be beneficial, though ACTION-Housing is still exploring its potential use. Sen. Williams highlighted the importance of using WDTC for redeveloping properties along the river into industrial, housing or recreational spaces. She noted the underutilized opportunities along the rivers.

Sen. Fontana highlighted ACTION Housing's contributions, particularly their support for individuals with disabilities and projects in Heidelberg and uptown. He inquired about the funding sources for Habitat. Slaughter explained that Habitat's funding comes primarily from donors, foundations and events, without federal funding, and highlighted the challenges in raising funds. Sen. Fontana discussed his involvement with Habitat, noting the absence of public funding and the importance of donations and relationships for the success of Habitat and similar organizations. Sen. Fontana asked Tigano to explain their public-private investment model. Tigano discussed the ongoing negotiations regarding their private investment model, emphasizing the necessity of both government and private sector involvement and the use of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RCAP) in their projects. He proposed a one-time revolving fund to avoid yearly appropriations requests and highlighted potential significant corporate investment with state or federal support.

Sen. Costa emphasized the Senate Democratic Caucus's priority to support mixed-use tax credits and the PHARE program, highlighting the importance of investing in community organizations to educate about housing opportunities. He expressed a desire to continue collaboration, particularly mentioning the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP).

Chairman Miller inquired about the utilization of WDTC in the Lehigh Valley. He questioned whether the focus on home ownership within the Habitat community was specific to the Allegheny region or more broadly applied. Slaughter explained that their affiliate covers all of Allegheny County and is part of a network of over 1,100 Habitat for Humanity affiliates nationwide, with other affiliates covering different regions. He also mentioned that offering 0% financing is typical among many Habitat affiliates to enhance affordability for homeowners.

Sen. Williams discussed the issue of corporate greed by out-of-state landlords in Allegheny, which has made affordable housing scarce. She expressed her commitment to working with colleagues and panelists to improve access to affordable housing at the state level.

Sen. Fontana emphasized the need for a comprehensive action plan for affordable housing, mentioning the importance of collaboration across government levels and political parties. He shared insights from a visit to Cleveland about the success of land banks and dedicated funding for affordable housing. Sen. Fontana stressed the need for a variety of housing options and the importance of community stabilization and growth, especially in Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh, advocating for unified efforts to address housing challenges.

Sen. Pisciotto agreed with Sen. Fontana on the importance of affordable housing for growth, highlighting housing's role in Allegheny County's development. He thanked Chairman Miller for addressing this "very critical issue."

Chairman Miller acknowledged the complexity of housing issues in Pennsylvania and highlighted the Senate Democratic Caucus's efforts to address these through various programs and initiatives. He mentioned the contributions of colleagues, including Sens. Arthur Haywood (D-Montgomery) and Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia), on addressing affordability and seeking solutions. Chairman Miller announced a forthcoming discussion to be held on the eastern side of the state and invited further feedback on housing topics. He directed attendees to the [policy website](#) for more information and concluded the hearing.



Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO2485 - Firefighter and Emergency Service Training

Sponsor

Rep. Dan Moul (R)

Summary

Aims to amend Section 1550 of the Public School Code regarding Firefighter and Emergency Service Training.

Intro Date

07/11/2025

Last Action

09/12/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed HB1861

HCO2679 - Returning employment decisions to local school boards.

Sponsor

Rep. Aaron Bernstine (R)

Summary

Removes the statutory right of appeal of hires by local school boards to the Secretary of Education.

Intro Date

09/16/2025

Last Action

09/16/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2686 - Pilot Program – Scratch Cooked Meals for Students

Sponsor

Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)

Summary

Creates a pilot program to connect schools to local farms through scratch cooking. Provides for competitive grants, investment in training and cafeteria improvements and the collection of data to guide future expansion.

Intro Date

09/17/2025

Last Action

09/17/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

SCO1299 - Maximizing Federal Rural Health Funds

Sponsor

Sen. Michele Brooks (R)

Summary

Aims to strengthen Pennsylvania's eligibility for new federal funding streams under the Rural Health Transformation Program.

Intro Date

09/16/2025

Last Action

09/16/2025 S - Cosponsor memo filed

Basic Ed Bill Actions

HB1701 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in grounds and buildings, further providing for referendum or public hearing required prior to construction or lease; providing for school facilities; establishing the Public School Facility Advisory Committee; in construction and renovation of buildings by school entities, repealing provisions relating to building condition assessments; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

Sponsor

Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D)

Summary

(PN 2101) Amends the Public School Code, in grounds and buildings, further providing for referendum or public hearing required prior to construction or lease; providing an article for school facilities; establishing the Public School Facility Advisory Committee; in construction and renovation of buildings by school entities, repealing provisions relating to building condition assessments; and imposing duties on the Department of Education (PDE). Includes the addition of administrative space as a secondary building as part of the applicable aggregate building expenditure standard for the total amount calculated for each building or substantial addition. Adds article VII-A and provides several definitions. Establishes the powers and duties of PDE. Stipulates the collection of information from each public school facility. Outlines required information. Requires PDE to develop a form and electronic process for each school entity to submit the required information no later than April 1, 2027, and for each school entity to submit the information no later than December 31, 2027. Permits the provision of technical assistance. Mandates updating inventories beginning with the 2028-2029 school year and every three years thereafter. Establishes the duties of the Public School Facility Advisory Committee. Details the committee's member composition. Outlines the frequency of committee meetings. Asserts that the members serve without compensation but are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Mandates the development of a statewide facility condition assessment. Provides applicability of the assessment. Requires reporting and lists the required contents. Stipulates that within one year of its receipt of a facility condition assessment under section 705-A(c), each school entity shall develop a plan for the modernization of its facilities based upon the assessment results and shall post the plan on its website. Requires the installation of a secure master key box and for immediate notification to local law enforcement of any changes to the locks, doors or other access control devices on the main entrances or other critical access points of the school building. Repeals section regarding building condition assessments. The amendment of section 701.1 of the act is effective in 60 days. The remainder of the act is effective immediately.

Intro Date

07/09/2025

Actions

07/08/2025 H - Introduced

07/09/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

09/12/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 09/22/2025, 11:00 AM - Public Hearing (House Education), Easy Passyunk Community Center, 1025 Mifflin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

HB1768 - An Act establishing the Keystone Fresh Program; providing for the Fresh Schools Grant Program, for the Keystone Producer Grant Program, for the Keystone Assistance Grant Program and for the administration of the Keystone Fresh Program by the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture; and establishing the Keystone Fresh Fund.

Sponsor

Rep. Danilo Burgos (D)

Summary

(PN 2177) The Keystone Fresh Act establishes the Keystone Fresh Program; provides for the Fresh Schools Grant Program, for the Keystone Producer Grant Program, for the Keystone Assistance Grant Program and for the administration of the Keystone Fresh Program by the Department of Education (PDE) and the Department of Agriculture (PDA); and establishes the Keystone Fresh Fund. Provides General Assembly findings and declarations. Provides definitions. Establishes the Keystone Fresh Program and the Fresh Schools Grant Program within PDE in consultation with PDA to provide reimbursement for the purchase of local food for school meals. Outlines eligibility requirements and the evaluation process for applicants. Includes grant amounts based on student enrollment. Explains eligible and ineligible uses for grants and reimbursement of eligible costs. Requires the PDE to monitor the Fresh Schools Grant Program. Includes information grantees must provide for reimbursement. Establishes the Keystone Producer Grant Program and Keystone Assistance Grant Program and outlines eligible uses of grant money. Asserts that PDA will develop an application and process for awarding grants, as well as determine grant amounts. Asserts that PDE and PDA will receive the necessary funds from the fund to cover administrative costs. Requires PDE and PDA to biennially contact an eligible entity for an external review to evaluate the efficacy of this act. Includes nonprofit organizations and academic institutions as eligible entities for external review. Provides the contents of the external report. Establishes the Keystone Fresh Fund as an interest-bearing restricted revenue account and includes eligible usages. Sections 5, 6 and 8 are effective in 245 days. Section 10 is effective immediately. The remainder of this act will be effective in 180 days.

Intro Date

08/04/2025

Actions

07/28/2025 H - Introduced

08/04/2025 H - Referred to - House Agriculture and Rural Affairs

09/16/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 10/07/2025, 9:30 AM - Public Hearing (House Agriculture and Rural Affairs), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

09/16/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 10/07/2025, 9:30 AM - Public Hearing (House Education), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

HB1864 - 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

Rep. Melissa L. Shusterman (D)

Summary

(PN 2313) Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for enrollee wellness checks. Establishes online requirements for enrollee wellness checks in cyber charter schools at least once a week to ensure the well-being of the student and verify participation in the program. Provides that the requirement may be satisfied by a student turning on a webcam during synchronous online instruction. Provides for in-person requirements for cyber-charters to ensure students are being communicated with in-person by a teacher, administrator or other representative at least once every three weeks during instruction to ensure the student's participation and well-being. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

09/16/2025

Actions

09/16/2025 H - Introduced

09/17/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

SB999 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school health services, further providing for seizure recognition and related first aid training.

Sponsor

Sen. Lisa M. Boscola (D)

Summary

(PN 1165) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, further providing for seizure recognition and related first aid training. Provides requirements for seizure recognition and related first aid training beginning with the school year 2025-2026 and every two years thereafter. Asserts that nothing in section 1414.11 will be construed to create, establish or expand any civil liability on the part of any school entity or any school entity employee. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

09/12/2025

Actions

09/12/2025 S - Introduced

09/12/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

Higher Ed Bill Actions

No Bill Actions this Week.

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](#)

THURSDAY – 09/25/2025

3:00 PM, [House Democratic Policy](#)

Public Hearing, Howard Gittis Student Center, Temple University, 1755 N 13th St, Philadelphia

Public hearing on technology accelerator legislation.

TUESDAY - 10/07/2025

9:30 AM, [House Agriculture & Rural Affairs](#) and [House Education](#)

Joint Public Hearing, Room 515, Irvis Office Building

Joint public hearing on [HB 1768](#) – The Keystone Fresh Act.

1:00 PM, PIEA Scholastic Day at the Capitol

Press Conference, Harrisburg Capitol Complex

In the News

[09/12/2025 - Cutler: 2024 Nation's Report Card Showcases Need for Drastic Education Reforms](#)

[09/15/2025 - Pitt and UPMC Launch Mobile Unit focused on Hearing, Speech, Language and Voice Conditions](#)

[09/15/2025 - Municipal Police Officers' Commission Approves Two New Police Academies](#)

[09/17/2025 - Home Latest News Dads Defending Daughters: Lawmakers Continue Work to Ensure Fair Play for Women's Sports](#)

Education Recap is a comprehensive weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education related legislation in the Pennsylvania Capitol and is compiled and edited by PLS.

For subscription information, questions or more information contact PLS at mypls@mypls.com or 717-236-6984. Thank you, Deborah, Cheryl, Derek, Hattie, Sam, Grace, Aaron, Christian, Katie, Zoe, Daniel, Kyle, Nicholas, Dominic, Julia and Noah.

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