

Sept. 26 – Oct. 2, 2025

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SESSION STATUS

At 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Monday, October 6, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 12:03 p.m. on Friday, October 3, 2025, the Senate convened briefly in non-voting Session and stands in recess until Monday, October 6th at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

Oct. 6-8, 27-29
Nov. 17-19
Dec. 8-10 (NV), 15-17

Senate

Oct. 6-8, 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

RCPA, COALITION OF CRITICAL SERVICES PROVIDERS URGES END TO BUDGET IMPASSE

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | October 2, 2025

The Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) and the Coalition of Critical Services Providers gathered to call for an end to the budget impasse at a press conference at the Main Capitol Rotunda today.

Kristen Rotz, president, United Way of Pennsylvania, said the governor and General Assembly's failure to enact a state budget is having a real and devastating impact on Pennsylvania. She said many non-profits are struggling to provide critical services and pay their employees. She cited a survey of non-profit organizations claiming that 85% of them have indicated that they will run out of contingency funds by the end of October.

Anne Gingerich, executive director, Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO), noted that non-profits employ nearly 16% of Pennsylvania's workforce and contribute over \$100 million to Pennsylvania's economy. She said many organizations risk cutting services and laying off employees if they do not receive funds. She urged legislators to "pass a responsible, timely budget."

Gabriella Romeo, public policy director, Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect, said 48 rape crisis centers are at risk of losing advocates who answer hotline calls, accompany victims to hospitals and support families affected by childhood sexual abuse. "Every day the budget is delayed, the situation becomes more dire," she said. She noted that one-third of the 27,000 survivors served by rape crisis centers each year are children.

Beck Moore, CEO, Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP), said the budget impasse is more than a "Harrisburg problem." He said funding that supports housing, food security, job training, senior services and child development is being delayed. He said CAAP is being forced to make painful decisions, such as closing programs, furloughing staff and cutting off critical services. He argued that families who are able to stabilize with services provided by CAAP go on to contribute to their communities and the economy.

Ron Bunce, president and CEO, Children's Home of York, discussed how his organization's struggles during the budget impasse, noting it has served the community for over 160 years. He said children who are abused and neglected will fall through the cracks of society, jeopardizing their mental health and community safety. "We must be classified as essential services, because the reality if kids are not a commodity," he said.

Holly Strait, senior director of child and family development services, PathStone Corporation, said her program had to close 12 classrooms that served 145 children and employed 48 teachers. She added that many families who benefited from the program are worried their children are losing developmental ground. She said over 66,000 per-K slots are in jeopardy because over 3,000 per-K providers are not receiving state funds. She urged lawmakers to pass a budget that includes

Gov. Josh Shapiro's proposed investment of \$17 million for pre-K programs and an additional investment of \$9.5 million for Head Start.

Ann Lang, executive director, Early Intervention Specialists (EIS), urged the legislature to pass a budget that includes support for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities. She said the work done by EIS is "invaluable," equipping families with the tools, knowledge and confidence to actively participate in their child's growth and development.

Rebecca May-Cole, executive director, Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A), said Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) provide essential services to more than 500,000 seniors in all 67 counties, including home-delivered meals, bathing and transportation. She asserted that every county in the commonwealth is at risk without timely and adequate state funding. She said many AAAs are facing difficult financial decisions, delaying critical services and payments to providers. She advocated for Gov. Shapiro's proposed \$20 million Penn Care line item.

Jim Sharp, COO, RCPA, urged lawmakers to pass a budget that "upholds the responsibility of the commonwealth to take care of its own." He stated that direct support professional workforce shortages are leaving people without the care they depend on. "Providers are being pushed to the breaking point," he said. "The crisis deepens every day this budget impasse drags on." He said many agencies have still not fully paid off loans taken during the 2015 and 2016 budget impasses.

Patrick Slattery, CEO and executive director, Pathways Forward, expressed frustration at the lack of progress on state budget negotiations. "It's not a good morning, and it's not my pleasure to be here," he remarked. "The people who occupy this building need to do something. They need to do their job." He said he worries about the people served by Pathways Forward, which assists those with serious mental health issues.

Jay Worrall, president, Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank, said it is a very critical time for food banks in the commonwealth. He cited reductions in federal funds as additional struggles, calling it a "perfect storm." He said many children and families in Pennsylvania risk going hungry. He criticized the federal government for its recent shutdown and begged the lawmakers in the commonwealth to "do better for its citizens."



Committee News

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

House Education Committee

09/30/2025, 10:00 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider one bill.

[HB 1701](#) – (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 the 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. The bill was **reported as amended**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

A01768, by Curry, makes technical changes; requires third-party vendors that complete an assessment for a school entity to provide an executive summary of the assessment; stipulates that summaries cannot include plans or records that expose vulnerabilities; and requires school districts to post the executive summary on their website. The amendment was **adopted**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

A01660, by Isaacson, adds energy efficiency and performance to the list of data points to be measured in the facility conditions assessment of a school entity. The amendment was **adopted**, with Reps. Barbara Gleim (R-Cumberland), Marc Anderson (R-York), Joseph D'Orsie (R-York), Milou Mackenzie (R-Northampton) and Stephenie Scialabba (R-Butler) voting in the negative.

A01661, by Kazeem, adds a physical safety and security assessment requirement for the school facilities assessment. The amendment was **adopted**, with Reps. Gleim and Scialabba voting in the negative.

Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D-Philadelphia), the bill's prime sponsor, said many of Pennsylvania's school buildings are outdated and unsafe. She said creating a statewide school facilities inventory would allow PDE and other experts to make recommendations for repairs.

On her amendment, Rep. Gina Curry (D-Delaware) said it makes targeted changes aimed to clarify and strengthen the bill. She explained the amendment adds athletic facilities to the scope of the school facility assessments and reduces the size of the School Facility Advisory Committee. She said the amendment also works to ensure comprehensive evaluations of HVAC systems and components, removes duplicative language related to requests for proposals with PDE and eliminates the secure master key box requirement. She added that the required executive summaries will highlight key issues such as asbestos, lead, mold and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Rep. Mary Isaacson (D-Philadelphia), speaking on her amendment, said numerous school districts have raised concerns regarding the costs of necessary repairs. She said the amendment would make the bill stronger.

Minority Chairman Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) said he felt the amendment made sense based on feedback from a school in his district.

Chairman Peter Schweyer (D-Lehigh), speaking on behalf of Rep. Carol Kazeem (D-Delaware), stressed the importance of safety and security for school buildings.

Chairman Cutler said he felt that including physical security and upgrade assessments was important, voicing his support for the amendment. He said he would like to continue reviewing the language.

Rep. John Schlegel (R-Lebanon) echoed Chairman Cutler's comments. He said superintendents in his school districts have raised safety concerns.

Rep. Anderson asked how many school buildings were subject to the provisions of the bill. Chairman Schweyer said he was not aware but argued the purpose of the bill was to find that information. Rep. Anderson informed the committee that there are nearly 3,000 buildings that would be included in the bill. He inquired about the costs of the bill. Chairman Schweyer said determining costs falls upon the House Appropriations Committee. Rep. Anderson said he did not feel the committee should support a bill without having a general idea of the costs.

Rep. Brian Rasel (R-Westmoreland) asked how the government plans on paying for these projects. Chairman Schweyer said taxation is not an issue covered in the bill.

Rep. Gleim said she did not believe the bill was ready. She asked if the bill was a reaction to the U.S. Department of Education sending certain responsibilities to the states. Chairman Schweyer said the bill was a response to public hearings where school facilities were repeatedly brought up as concerns. Rep. Gleim advocated for a more holistic strategy to education.

Rep. Schlegel shared the reactions he received from superintendents regarding the bill. He said school officials were concerned about "another mandate." He said the bill could be a "daunting task" for schools.

Chairman Cutler agreed that the bill addressed a critical issue but also agreed with concerns raised by his Republican colleagues. He said many school districts are already independently doing these assessments. He argued for focusing on schools that need improvement. He noted that schools are currently underfunded due to the state budget impasse, arguing that the committee should be focused on current fiscal matters.

Chairman Schweyer reiterated that school facility improvement issues continually come up in discussions with school officials. He noted that a school in his district was built in 1874. He pointed out that many schools lack accessibility for disabled individuals and were built before asbestos concerns. He expressed frustration at some committee members' opposition to the bill, arguing that pooling data at the state level that is already collected by school districts by law was not a cumbersome task. He noted that PDE was a partner in crafting some of the amendments.

Chairman Schweyer said he and Chairman Cutler will be hosting a meet-and-greet breakfast with representatives from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) on Monday, October 6. He noted that the committee will hold a joint meeting with the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on October 7 to discuss [HB 1768](#).



Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee

*09/30/2025, 1:00 p.m., Keystone State Challenge Academy Multi-Purpose Building, Ft. Indiantown Gap, 1 Garrison Road, Annville
Pennsylvania Legislative Services*

The committee held an informational hearing on the Keystone State ChalleNGe Academy (KSCA).

Chairman Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin) praised the KSCA program for giving at-risk youth a second chance through structure, discipline and life skills, helping them earn diplomas or General Education Degrees (GED) and build confidence in their futures. He thanked the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), staff and community supporters for their role in the program's success.

Maj. Gen. John Pippy, adjutant general, Pennsylvania National Guard, credited his predecessor and staff for building KSCA, stressing that its military-style structure instills consistency, responsibility, respect and teamwork. He emphasized the importance of mentorship, community service and the program's transformative impact on cadets, who often leave with renewed confidence, stronger relationships and a vision for their future. He explained that KSCA is more than a 22-week program — it is the start of a new path for Pennsylvania youth.

Sen. Cris Dush (R-Jefferson) thanked Chairman Mastriano for holding the hearing and looked forward to the panelists.

Steve Grossman, director, KSCA, introduced himself as a longtime educator and retired officer of the 28th Infantry Division. He explained that KSCA is one of 38 National Guard Youth Challenge programs nationwide, with Pennsylvania's first class graduating in December 2022. He stated that KSCA runs two free 22-week residential sessions per year for teens struggling in high school, providing structure, education and life skills to help them succeed as responsible citizens. He outlined the academy's funding, noting that 75% comes from the Department of Defense (DOD) via the National Guard Bureau, while Pennsylvania supplies the 25% state match plus an additional 12% to ensure competitive salaries and staff stability. He argued that this extra support allows KSCA to maintain high-quality, experienced employees, which in turn strengthens recruitment and outcomes for cadets. He added that students can recover credits, earn GEDs or in some cases graduate with diplomas from their home schools. Grossman thanked the committee for its support and urged continued investment in KSCA's mission to serve Pennsylvania teens.

Steve Secor, commandant, KSCA, shared his personal perspective, describing the program as life-changing for cadets, staff and families. He emphasized the effectiveness of the academy's eight core component model in helping cadets build skills, find new life paths and become agents of change in their communities. He illustrated the program's impact by citing a student who said that "before Challenge, I was always cleaning up yesterday's messes, now I get to move forward." He noted that graduates reclaim control over their lives and also return to mentor new cadets, proving the program's long-term value. He urged continued state support, which enables Pennsylvania youth to succeed and reinvest in their communities.

Dr. John Thompson, lead educator, KSCA, described the academy's educational programming, delivered through the Capital Area Intermediate Unit. He stated that KSCA employs certified teachers in core subjects plus special education, preparing cadets for the GED or completing transferable coursework for their home schools. He cited that about one-third pursue the GED, with a pass rate of over 75%, well above the national average. He continued that cadets earn elective credits through courses in areas like financial literacy, citizenship, leadership, coping skills and physical training. He noted that KSCA also partners with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to meet Act 158 graduation requirements, ensuring all cadets take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), engage in community service and gain certifications. He emphasized that KSCA's impact extends beyond individual students to families and local school districts, calling the work the most rewarding of his 25-year career. He thanked the committee for its continued support and affirmed KSCA's role in creating lasting, generational change.

Chairman Mastriano requested the panel to describe a typical day at KSCA. Thompson explained that cadets follow a structured school schedule from 9 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. with four instructional blocks in math, language arts, science and social studies, tailored to either the GED track or credit recovery needs. He stated that while most instruction is direct, some specialized or advanced courses are supported through the Intermediate Unit's (IU) online platform, with teachers providing guidance. He continued that the day concludes with a core component class, which typically adds up to 2.5 high school credits upon return to the cadet's home district. He emphasized that the program mirrors a traditional school day but within a disciplined, highly structured environment. Secor said that outside the academic day, KSCA cadets follow a strict schedule from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. He explained that cadets take on assigned duties, leadership roles and activities tied to the program's eight core components. He emphasized that these include life skills training, as well as community service, where cadets engage in public events and volunteer work, gaining positive reinforcement and exposure to new experiences. He argued that the structured environment removes distractions like cell phones, meals and clothing choices, allowing cadets to focus on personal growth. He noted that each cadet finds strengths within the eight core components, which helps build confidence even if they have struggled in the past. He added that the program also gives cadets the opportunity to simply experience being kids, while still preparing them to become the best versions of themselves.

Chairman Mastriano said that his interest in recruitment is personal, sharing his father's story of dropping out of high school at 17. He explained that his father described himself as a "punk" who spent his time drag racing, being arrested and repeatedly appearing before a judge. He said the judge eventually gave his father a choice: join the Navy or go to jail. He noted that his father always considered the Navy the best decision of his life, as it gave him direction and led to a 20-year career before retiring as a senior manager at an Air Products plant. He emphasized that, despite dropping out, his father went on to raise sons who became a Marine Corps Sergeant Major and a senior State Department official. He asked how the program works with judges to identify and support people like his father. Grossman indicated that recruitment has become easier in recent years, with school districts serving as the main venue to reach potential cadets. He explained that schools help spread the word, but some teenagers also find the program themselves when they realize they need a change or lack support at home. He said the admissions team, made up of three recruiters, travels widely and hosts frequent tours for school district staff, including counselors, teachers and principals. He noted that alumni are often the program's best recruiters, as their personal transformations inspire other students to apply. He added that the program also maintains strong connections with active-duty recruiters and the Army and Air Guard in Pennsylvania. He specified that while military service is not pushed on cadets, it is one of the three post-residential "E" options: employment, education or enlistment. He emphasized that cadets have gone on to enlist in nearly every branch, including the Coast Guard, though not yet the Space Force. He shared that recruitment sometimes comes from community service events, such as when cadets volunteered at a church in Palmyra, which led directly to new enrollments. He stressed that the program draws youth from every walk of life, ranging from gifted students to those who had dropped out of school and shared the story of a young man living under a bridge near Johnstown who earned enough credits through the program to return to his high school and graduate with his classmates.

Minority Chairman Katie Muth (D-Montgomery) asked whether there was data available on the three E's and whether the program tracks cadets' success after completion, particularly with enlistment. Grossman said that nationally, about 5% to 7% of Youth Challenge Academy graduates move on to military enlistment, though Pennsylvania's rate is slightly higher, and some states have higher rates. He explained that the program tracks graduates through the National Guard Bureau and RAND Corporation, monitoring whether cadets remain employed, enlisted or pursuing education three to five years after graduation. He noted that about 85% of graduates continue in one of the three E's and highlighted that RAND studies show the program is among the most successful and cost-effective for helping youth earn credits or GED equivalency.

Chairman Muth asked about the barriers to expanding the current class, noting that it is the largest to date. She asked whether cost is the primary limitation and sought clarification on funding, specifically whether the state provides a 25% match to federal funding. She requested confirmation of a previous statement regarding the federal funding level, asking if it is essentially flat-funded. Grossman said that federal funding for the program has been essentially stagnant, unchanged since fiscal year 2024. He confirmed that there is no predicted increase for the current or upcoming fiscal year, noting that this trend is common across Youth Challenge programs and DOD. Chairman Muth asked for clarification regarding adjustments for inflation, confirming that federal funding has not increased. She then asked whether the program receives an additional 12% in funding from DMVA. Grossman answered that they get about 35% to 37% from the state. Chairman Muth asked if more funding is necessary or if there are other factors as well. Grossman stated that cadet intake is limited primarily for safety reasons, in coordination with the National Guard Bureau. He

explained that the agreed-upon graduation target is 75 cadets per class, but the current class has 77, and he hopes to graduate all 77. He added that he plans to petition the National Guard Bureau and the Office of the Secretary of Defense to increase the graduation target in the future.

Chairman Mastriano noted that the program is not primarily a military recruiting tool. He explained that roughly 11% of graduates enlist, with most choosing the Navy, while the remaining 89% pursue employment or education.

Mark Ferraro, executive deputy secretary, DMVA, said that the program receives approximately \$2.1 million to \$2.3 million from state appropriations. He explained that \$1.5 million to \$1.6 million of the aforementioned state appropriations is used to meet the 25% state match required by the federal cooperative agreement. He added that the program intentionally exceeds some federal funding limits for staff salaries, noting that employees are paid according to the General Services (GS) scale. He gave the example of Grossman, a GS-13 Step 10, and said the state contributes 100% of the salary amount above the federal maximum to ensure competitive pay.

Chairman Muth asked if the pay scale is adjusted for cost of living based on region. Ferraro confirmed that the pay scale is based on locality. He noted that federal funding levels, staff salaries and the number of employees supported by the federal match are determined by the size of the program. He explained that if the graduation target is increased to 100 cadets, the program can petition for additional staffing. He noted that the increased staffing would be funded 75% by the federal government, with the state responsible for its matching share, meaning funding scales incrementally with program size. Chairman Muth sought clarification on how local senate districts can support recruitment, noting that she represents 11 school districts. She asked whether promotion of the program happens through the IU or by another mechanism and how legislators can help raise awareness about the program. Grossman answered that local Senate districts can support recruitment primarily through school districts and the IU, which helps promote the program to students and staff. He explained that outreach also occurs via alumni, community events and other local connections, giving multiple pathways for students to learn about and apply to the program.

Sen. Dush asked Secor to describe his experience with four other Challenge programs. He requested that he explain how KSCA differs from those programs and what aspects of it are better. Secor said that Pennsylvania is his fourth Challenge program. He explained that he began in Texas in March 2012 and stayed for four and a half years, then worked in Wyoming for two and a half years, followed by two years in Nevada, before coming to Pennsylvania. Sen. Dush noted that he has 16 years of experience with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC), including working with juveniles convicted as adults and extensive experience with institutionalized youth. He explained that he has also worked alongside and supervised individuals from challenging backgrounds, observing many exceed expectations. He then asked Secor to describe how the program's structure helps cadets transform their lives. Secor stated that the program's structure primarily provides cadets with a baseline of safety and stability. He explained that cadets know what to expect each day, including what to wear, what to do and the behavioral expectations. He emphasized that all rules and expectations are clearly published, providing predictability and consistent responses from staff. He said this structure gives cadets a foundation to build their lives on, allowing them to focus on themselves. He noted that cadets typically join because of challenges at home, a desire for more structure or feeling lost, and that the program's scaffolding helps them address these issues.

Sen. Dush appreciated that the program reaches cadets before they enter institutional systems, emphasizing the importance of early intervention. He compared it to another diversion program in Warren County and noted that the structure provided gives young people a strong opportunity to turn their lives around. He said he hopes graduates continue to return to their schools, neighborhoods and families to demonstrate positive change, encouraging others to participate. He expressed gratitude for the program and eagerness to hear from the graduates.

Brielle Lee, cadet, KSCA, explained that she joined KSCA to get her grades back on track, as she often had to leave class to care for her younger brother, who has severe autism. She said that being at KSCA has given her a structured and supportive learning environment, improved her academic performance and provided opportunities for community service. She added that the program has taught her to interact with adults confidently, develop leadership and followership skills and understand responsibility and consequences. She emphasized that state support for the program is important because it provides life-changing opportunities, teaching cadets coping skills, job skills and responsible citizenship. She thanked the committee for the opportunity to share her experience.

Lloyd Williams, cadet, KSCA, explained that he joined to better his life, earn his GED and change his mindset, as he had been struggling with negative thoughts and low confidence. He said KSCA provided structure, support and lifelong mentors who guided him academically and personally. He argued that the program taught him leadership, self-discipline, meditation for managing stress, respect for adults and control over his words and actions. He emphasized that KSCA is important for young people who have gotten off track and that, with state support, it can help many more teens in the future. He thanked the committee for the opportunity to share his experience.

Chairman Mastriano asked Williams how he first heard about KSCA, noting he had three questions for each cadet. He commented on the importance of addressing profanity, sharing that as a company commander, he had enforced a similar policy and observed its impact, adding a light remark about differences in politics versus the military. Williams said he first heard about KSCA when he was struggling in school, frequently leaving classes and falling behind. He explained that his mother started looking for programs to help him earn credits, initially considering Job Corps, but that program was shutting down. He discovered KSCA online, was excited that it offered a free GED and told his mother about it. He continued that after going through the interview and orientation, despite initial nervousness about the military-style structure and giving up his phone, he felt the program was right for him to improve his life. He said he has been fully committed and working hard since being accepted. Chairman Mastriano asked the same question to Lee, who answered that she first heard about the academy from Johnson, who came to her school. She explained that she initially had no idea it was a military base program. Her main thoughts at the time were that she could get away from her mom, catch up on her credits and pursue her desire to enlist in the Navy, which she had been wanting to do. Chairman Mastriano confirmed that their interests were academic and discipline-motivated. He asked Lee what interested her in coming to the academy. She stated that it was her mother who motivated her to join the academy and learn to change herself. Chairman Mastriano asked the cadets if they would go home and talk to their communities about the academy. Lee said she would advise them to join the academy because it would have a transformative impact on her and others, noting that she was the only one from her school to successfully enroll and expressed pride in making it through the program. Williams said he would definitely recommend the program to his friends because it changed his mindset, helped him think more critically and provided positive guidance away from negative influences like gangs, drugs and violence.

Chairman Muth asked the cadets what they hope to do in the future. Williams answered that after careful planning, he decided not to join the Air Force or Marines and instead plans to join the National Guard. He stated that his goal is to become an electrician and enter a union and he wants to start as soon as he turns 17. He emphasized that his mentors encouraged him to use his time wisely now rather than later, and he's determined to take advantage of the opportunities available to him. Lee stated that after finishing high school, she plans on joining the Navy.

Sen. Dush asked why Williams decided against the Air Force. Williams explained that he decided against it because he wanted to prioritize what aligned best with his life and future goals. Sen. Dush said that when he talks to other young people about the program, he sees excitement and anticipation in their eyes. He added that he sees bright futures for the cadets and asked what they tell people when they talk about the program. Williams said that when he talks to friends about the program, he sees their initial skepticism because they do not understand the structure or the military-style environment. However, he said that after he graduates and returns, he hopes they see the positive changes in him, and that inspires them to want to participate as well. Lee said that during her home pass, she avoided seeing her old friends because she knew they hadn't changed mentally and might pull her back into old habits. She explained that before the program, she and her friends were mainly focused on appearances, but at the academy, she was learning to grow mentally and focus on personal development rather than just physical looks. She stated that staying away from her old friends helped her maintain that positive focus. Sen. Dush emphasized that once they graduate, they will have the chance to return to their communities as role models. He noted that their success can inspire others, highlighting that each cadet comes to the program with different motivations. He encouraged them to use their experiences to positively influence peers, schools and neighborhoods, stressing the value of sharing their stories and mentoring others.

Logan Karle, alumnus, KSCA, explained that he applied to KSCA due to poor choices and being stuck in negative habits but knew he was capable of more. He said that seeing his cousin, a previous graduate, succeed inspired him to apply. He expressed profound gratitude for the program, particularly for the mental clarity it provided and the support in completing their education. He stated that KSCA helped him prepare for both short-term and long-term career goals, including obtaining a lifeguard certification to ensure post-graduation employment and exposing them to military opportunities. He said that as a result, he has enlisted in the Marine Corps, shipping out for boot camp on October 28, and currently works in landscaping and construction. He thanked KSCA staff for providing a second chance to Pennsylvania youth and expressed pride in being part of the academy's legacy.

Chairman Mastriano thanked Karle, noting that two of his brothers joined the Marine Corps and his father served in the Navy, joking that maybe he "got dropped on his head" and joined the Army instead. He then asked Karle to reflect on his experience at KSCA. Karle indicated that the change was gradual, beginning after acclimation when school started. He explained that coming in with bad habits brought challenges, like withdrawal and anger, but once he realized how much he needed the program, he committed fully and worked as hard as he could. He stated that he achieved milestones such as being promoted to sergeant, serving as assistant platoon leader and earning a full rack of ribbons, marking his accomplishments and growth. Chairman Mastriano confirmed that Karle heard about the academy through his family. Karle noted that family was not his biggest influence and was more rooted in his own desire to go there. Chairman Mastriano asked what Karle would tell his community. Karle answered that although earning his GED was a success, he did not have many opportunities to share the experience beyond close friends. He said that those friends were proud and inspired, but many peers were reluctant to take the same step, discouraged by rules like no phone access or marching requirements.

Chairman Muth expressed pride in Karle's story and growth, highlighting that KSCA's purpose is to help students overcome personal struggles and recognize their capability to succeed despite challenges. She emphasized that this kind of resilience and leadership is valuable not only in KSCA but in the wider world.

Sen. Dush encouraged taking advantage of post-basic training opportunities to work with local recruiters and sharing their experience in high school classrooms, both about KSCA and the Marine Corps. He highlighted that Pennsylvania offers strong opportunities in the Air Force and other services, emphasizing that Karle has a bright future ahead and should make the most of these options.

Dara Eorio, family member, shared her experience with her daughter's journey to KSCA, emphasizing that before attending, her daughter faced bullying, negative school experiences and struggled academically and emotionally. She described the initial resistance her daughter had toward KSCA but noted a turning point where her daughter embraced the program. She highlighted that the academy offered a structured, disciplined environment, consistent support from teachers and opportunities for personal growth, leadership and face-to-face communication. She noted improvements in her daughter's academic performance, mental and physical health, social skills and confidence, ultimately leading to her high school graduation and career aspirations in law enforcement. She emphasized the transformative impact of the program, calling it a "village" for students and families, and expressed gratitude and willingness to advocate for the academy and support other parents and potential students.

Brielle Nagle, lead counselor, KSCA, emphasized the critical role of family support in cadets' success. She explained that her counseling department acts as a bridge between KSCA and home, maintaining communication with families. Nagle highlighted Eorio's daughter, Jalen, as an example of a cadet who initially struggled with the program but ultimately thrived, even delivering the graduation speech. She noted that while every cadet's experience is unique, those with strong family support, like Jalen, tend to achieve the greatest success.

Chairman Mastriano thanked the two speakers, drawing a parallel to historical figures like Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, who overcame personal challenges and doubt to achieve greatness. He highlighted that, despite being told they would never succeed, individuals can thrive with guidance, mentorship and perseverance. He credited Eorio's daughter's future to the support and leadership provided by her family and the KSCA staff.

Dr. Scott Richardson, principal, Palmyra High School, praised KSCA for providing an alternative pathway for students who struggle in traditional school settings. He highlighted that the program supports students facing absenteeism, disengagement or lack of confidence in education, helping them earn a high school diploma or GED while developing critical life skills such as communication, problem-solving, resilience and perseverance. He emphasized the staff's commitment, collaboration with schools and mentorship, noting that students who complete KSCA return to the community as contributing members. He cited specific examples of student success, including graduates who improved academically, socially and personally through the program and expressed strong support for the ongoing partnership with KSCA.

Dr. Philip Domencic, superintendent, Cornwall-Lebanon School District (CLSD), praised KSCA for its effectiveness with students who struggle in traditional school settings. He highlighted that of the five students from Cedar Crest High School who completed the program, all have succeeded academically, with some earning enough credits for early graduation. He emphasized that the program's comprehensive and structured environment allows students to focus on growth without distractions from home or peer influences. He commended KSCA staff for their work and expressed strong support for continuing and expanding the partnership to benefit more students.

Chairman Mastriano emphasized the goal of expanding awareness of KSCA across Pennsylvania through social media and public outreach, noting a wide audience reach. He expressed appreciation for Eorio's testimony and her sharing of her daughter's experience. He then invited them to offer advice or insights for other parents considering the program for their children. Eorio highlighted the value of sharing experiences with parents who are initially nervous about sending their children to the program. She emphasized that the academy provides discipline, structure and hope, transforming students' lives. Using her daughter as an example, she noted how the program helped a previously shut-down and isolated child grow in confidence, restoring her future prospects and happiness. She recommended the program to other parents. Nagle stressed the critical role of family involvement in KSCA's success. She said that from orientation through the entire residential program and beyond, the counseling department maintains strong, ongoing relationships with parents to support both students and families. She highlighted that the program's staff are deeply committed, genuinely invested in their work and view it as a privilege to guide students and families through this transformative experience.

Chairman Muth asked Nagle to describe her broader role at KSCA beyond parent communication, specifically how she supports students in overcoming challenges, breaking cycles of negative behavior and fostering resilience. Nagle explained that the counseling department at KSCA consisted of her and two others. She said their role was not traditional therapy, but rather guidance, mentorship and support for students navigating challenges in the academy's quasi-military environment. She indicated that they

help cadets through difficult moments, coordinate with families when additional support is needed and address social-emotional needs day-to-day. Chairman Muth noted that the ratio likely allows the counselors to get to know individual cadets better and pick up on subtle signs, such as body language, when a cadet is having a bad day or struggling, something that would not be possible with a much larger group. Nagle agreed and explained that the counseling staff actively participated in all aspects of the cadets' daily programming rather than remaining in their offices. She emphasized that they engaged in activities alongside the cadets, such as yoga, to be fully involved in their experiences.

Sen. Dush thanked the panelists for acknowledging KSCA staff's teamwork and emphasized the difference between merely calling people "staff" versus recognizing them as part of a team. He praised the collaboration between the academy and local superintendents and principals, highlighting their active participation in supporting students. He noted the importance of focusing on individual children and expressed a wish to replicate KSCA's model across the state.

Chairman Muth expressed gratitude for the hearing, emphasizing the importance of KSCA and its potential for growth with proper financial support. She highlighted the critical environment cultivated at the academy for cadet success and praised staff dedication, comparing it to public school educators who want to see students thrive. She stressed the value of identifying students who need alternative settings to succeed and the positive ripple effect on families when students receive proper support. She found cadet success stories inspiring and appreciated state-level leadership supporting the program's continuation and expansion.

Pippy thanked the committee and participants, emphasizing the inspiration he drew from cadets and alumni speaking about life lessons such as discipline and perseverance. He highlighted that the program offers more than GED education, connecting it to the military's mission of mentorship and development. He praised the staff and administration for their dedication and noted the program's role in providing career pathways, including opportunities in the National Guard, engineering units and state employment. He stressed the diversity of students served, the program's success and the ongoing commitment to improving and expanding its reach while ensuring local access.

Chairman Mastriano thanked everyone for attending and highlighted KSCA as a highly successful program with a bright future. He praised staff, faculty and parents for their support, acknowledging the DMVA's role in sustaining the initiative. He shared a personal connection, describing how the program parallels their father's life-changing Navy experience. He recognized the transformative impact on cadets and honored Cadets Karle, Lee and Williams for their courage and commitment by presenting them with challenge coins.



House Appropriations Committee

09/30/2025, 5:00 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

[HB 1331](#) - (PN 1945) The Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 2025-2026 provides for the capital budget for fiscal year 2025-2026; itemizes public improvement projects, furniture and equipment projects, transportation assistance, redevelopment assistance projects, flood control projects and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission projects leased or assisted by the Department of General Services and other state agencies, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizes the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services and other state agencies; authorizes the use of current revenue for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services and other state agencies stating the estimated useful life of the projects; and makes appropriations. Amends authorization amounts for public improvement projects outlined in section 3, including furniture and equipment, transportation assistance, redevelopment assistance and flood control. Adds additional projects and allocation amounts under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and increases the project allocation amount for Delaware State Forest. Increases the project allocation amounts for specified state correctional institutions (SCIs). Adds additional projects and allocation amounts under the Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health (DOH). Includes new land acquisition for Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) design, construction and general improvement projects for all PhilaPort properties. Adds multicounty projects and project allocation amounts under the Department of Transportation (PennDOT). Adds additional projects and allocation amounts for the acquisition of movable furniture and equipment. Adds additional

projects and allocation amounts for mass transit, including for rural and intercity rail services and air transportation. Adds additional projects and allocation amounts for redevelopment assistance projects for capital grants under the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Adds additional projects and allocation amounts for capital projects under DEP. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1629). The bill was unanimously reported as **amended**.

A01786, by Harris, updates principal debt authorizations for public improvement projects, transportation assistance, redevelopment assistance, flood control projects and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) projects. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

HB 997 - (PN 2381) Amends the Breach of Personal Information Notification Act, further providing for definitions, for notification of the breach of the security of the system, for exceptions and for notice exemption; repealing provisions relating to civil relief; providing for protection of personal information, for civil relief, for information security and for applicability; and repealing provisions relating to applicability. Provides definitions. Amends definitions. Provides that an entity that complies with, or in good faith, acts to comply with notification requirements shall be in compliance. Asserts that the act is not applicable to an entity, an affiliate of an entity or a data subject to the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. Mandates that any person who conducts business implement and maintain, in good faith, reasonable procedures and practices to prevent the unauthorized acquisition, use, modification, disclosure or destruction of personal information collected or maintained in the regular course of business. Provides remedies for residents who are adversely affected by a violation. Permits the Attorney General to bring action against a person who violates the act. Provides a limitation period of three years after the violation is discovered. Permits the court to increase the damage award for repeated violations. Asserts that a plaintiff is entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees and costs. Provides for arbitration. Provides that multiple violations of the act constitute one violation. Directs an entity that maintains computerized data that includes personal information to take reasonable measures to secure the system and personal information. Establishes liability. Stipulates that this act shall apply to the discovery or notification of a breach in the security of personal information that occurs on or after the effective date. Provides that compliance with the provisions of this act creates a rebuttable presumption in favor of an entity. Removes the civil relief for financial institutions' liability and access devices and breach of security from the bill. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1086, 1621). The bill was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

HB 1866 - (PN 2315) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in inchoate crimes, further providing for prohibited offensive weapons. Defines "machinegun" and "machinegun conversion device." Adds machinegun and machinegun conversion device to the "offensive weapons" definition. Provides 10 days for the Attorney General to transmit notice of the contents of this act to the Legislative Reference Bureau to publish in the next available Pennsylvania Bulletin issue. Sections 2 and 3 of this act are effective immediately. The remainder of this act is effective 30 days after the publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the notice under section 2 of this act. The bill was **reported as committed**, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

HB 78 - (PN 1476) The Consumer Data Privacy Act provides for consumer data privacy, for duties of controllers and for duties of processors; and imposes penalties. Provides definitions. Redefines "sensitive data" and asserts that the term "sensitive data" does not include publicly available information that is lawfully made available to the general public from federal, state or local government records or widely distributed media. Establishes consumer data privacy and outlines the rights of consumers. Provides that a consumer may exercise the rights under subsection (a) by a secure and reliable means established by a controller and described to the consumer in the controller's privacy notice. Provides for compliance requirements. Allows for appeals and outlines appeal procedures. Allows a consumer to designate another person to serve as the consumer's authorized agent and act on the consumer's personal data. Establishes the duties of controllers including limiting the collection of personal data, refraining from processing personal data for purposes that are neither reasonably necessary to nor compatible with the disclosed purposes for which the personal data is processed, processing personal data in a reasonable and appropriate manner, refraining from processing sensitive data without consent, refraining from processing personal data in violation of federal or state law, providing an effective mechanism for a consumer to revoke consent, refraining from processing personal data for the purpose of targeted advertising or selling data and refraining from discriminating against a consumer for exercising any of their rights. Establishes privacy notice requirements. Provides for disclosures and means to exercise rights. Provides for the duties of processors, including assistance, contracts, construction and acting as controller or processor. Establishes a data protection assessment and requires a benefits and risk analysis. Provides for the availability of assessments and for comparing processing operations. Provides for compliance and applicability. Provides for de-identified data and pseudonymous data and provides for the duties of a controller in possession of de-identified data. Provides for exemptions on restrictions for controllers or processors and establishes legal compliance. Provides for data collection and evidentiary privilege. Provides for third-party access and individual liberties. Outlines personal data processing requirements. Provides for exemptions and legal entities. Establishes penalties, enforcement and private rights of action, granting the Attorney General exclusive authority to enforce the act. Provides for non-applicability, exemptions and consent. Makes editorial changes to update dates throughout the act. Effective in one year. (Prior PN: 65, 1024). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 102](#) - (PN 2380) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in assault, further providing for the offense of harassment. Establishes grading for the offense of harassment, constituting it as a misdemeanor of the third degree where the victim is a sports official who was harassed as a result of official acts or status as a sports official. Adds a definition for "sports official." Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 1943, 81). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 722](#) - (PN 743) Amends Title 1 (General Provisions), in rules of construction, further providing for definitions to define "cremation." Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1176](#) - (PN 2382) Amends Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries), in intestate succession, further providing for shares of others than surviving spouse; and, in dispositions independent of letters, family exemption, probate of wills and grant of letters, further providing for payments to family and funeral directors. Provides for the order of succession and includes the order for an endowed community fund. Defines "community foundation" and "endowed community fund." Provides for a total standing to the credit of the decedent in that institution that does not exceed \$20,000. Increases the payment amount under unclaimed property of the funds or the value of the property to \$20,000. The amendment of section 2103 is effective in 60 days. The amendment of 20 P.A.C.S. § 3101(b) is effective in 60 days. The amendment of section 3101 (e)(1)(i) is effective in 180 days. The remainder of the act is effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1313). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1608](#) - (PN 1923) Amends Title 74 (Transportation), in transportation infrastructure, providing for design build best value. Defines "agency," "alternative technical concept," "commission," "commissioners," "department," "design build best value," "offeror," "project," "request for proposals," "request for qualifications," "responsible offeror," "responsive proposal," "secretary," "shortlisted offeror" and "statement of qualifications." Provides for a design build best value process with a value score, conditions for its use and limits for the amount of projects procured per agency. Establishes the need for public notice of a determination when using design build best value practices and the process for one-step or two-step requests for proposals. Provides for the receipt of statements of qualifications and requests for proposals, and how to submit them. Provides for a preproposal conference to be scheduled after issuance of a request for qualifications in a two-step procurement and a request for proposal in a one-step procurement. Establishes a process for the request for technical and price proposals in a one-step procurement. Provides for a process and the statement of qualifications for a two-step procurement for an agency. Provides for technical and price proposal processes in a two-step procurement. Provides for alternative technical concepts (ATCs) and an approval process of an ATC for an agency. Establishes a record of requests for ATCs and the use of intellectual property. Provides for payment from an agency to an unsuccessful responsible offeror for ATCs who are not receiving a stipend under subsection o. Provides for stipends on a project-by-project basis in a one-step and two-step procurement. Establishes due dates for technical and price proposals. Provides that the most advantageous proposal will be selected by the agency for negotiation. Provides an ATC of an unsuccessful offeror can be utilized by the agency after a payment execution. Establishes that a proposal validity period is established in the proposal. Provides for an evaluation committee of the proposals with at least five employees determined by the agency and an individual employed by the offeror within the preceding five years cannot participate in proposal evaluations. Provides for the applicability of other laws. Establishes the limitations on powers and duties of an agency that may not be exercised beginning eight years after the effective date of the section and an exception to contracts procured prior to eight years after the section's effective date. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1704](#) - (PN 2385) Amends Title 68 (Real and Personal Property), in general provisions relating to residential real property, further providing for definitions; in seller disclosures, further providing for disclosure form and providing for website information and for flood disclosure; and imposing duties on the Insurance Department PID). Defines "flood damage," "flood risk indicator" and "natural flood event." Requires the property disclosure statement to include disclosures about land, including soils, drainage, boundaries, sinkholes and flood risk indicators. Provides for posting information on the PID website. Details language for a written disclosure to be included either with a seller's disclosure form or as part of the seller's disclosure form. Adds that for the purpose of implementing the amendment of 68 P.A.C.S. § 7304(B)(13), revisions to the property disclosure statement shall be promulgated by the state real estate commission within 18 months of the effective date as a final-omitted regulation under the Regulatory Review Act, with notice of proposed rulemaking omitted under section 204 of the Commonwealth Documents Law. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 2093). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.



Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO2715 - Welcoming Schools: Ensuring PA Schools are Safe Places for All Students

Sponsor

Rep. Joseph C. Hohenstein (D)

Summary

Requires school districts to adopt clear procedures for responding to immigration enforcement.

Intro Date

09/29/2025

Last Action

09/29/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2722 - Teacher Classroom Supplies Tax Credit

Sponsor

Rep. Nikki Rivera (D)

Summary

Aims to provide a \$100 refundable tax credit to teachers who spent their own money on classroom supplies and equipment.

Intro Date

09/30/2025

Last Action

09/30/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2723 - Making Swatting a Crime in Pennsylvania

Sponsor

Rep. Craig Williams (R)

Summary

Aims to introduce two bills to address swatting in the commonwealth: 1) provides that an individual commits a felony when the individual engages in the act of swatting; and 2) allows courts to order a person who is found to have engaged in swatting to pay the costs incurred by the state or municipality, or any other emergency responder, that responds to a swatting call.

Intro Date

09/30/2025

Last Action

09/30/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO2733 - Swatting Against a School Entity or Institution of Higher Education**Sponsor**

No primary sponsor.

Summary

Considers creating a sentencing enhancement for terroristic threats against a school entity or institution of higher education.

Intro Date

10/02/2025

Last Action

10/02/2025 H - 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 2364) 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, including for "athletic facility," "facility condition assessment" and strikes the definition for "building condition assessment." 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 public 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, striking the requirement of legislature-appointed members. 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, outlines requirements

and removes deadlines. Provides applicability of the assessment. Requires reporting and lists the required contents, including an executive summary requirement. Stipulates that within one year of its receipt of a facility condition assessment under section 705-A(c), each public 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. Removes the requirement of 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 the 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. (Prior PN: 2101)

Intro Date

07/09/2025

Actions

09/30/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended - House Education

09/30/2025 H - Reported as amended - House Education

09/30/2025 H - First consideration

09/30/2025 H - Laid on the table

10/07/2025 H - Placed on HVS

HB1883 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in pupils and attendance, providing for chronic absence prevention and support.

Sponsor

Rep. Manuel Guzman (D)

Summary

(PN 2344) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, providing for chronic absence prevention and support. Provides for the collection of daily attendance data by schools using a standardized system to report attendance to the department. Requires data to include all absences, separated by grade, student group and reason for absence, providing categories. Establishes a publicly accessible real-time attendance dashboard maintained by the department to ensure transparency and actionable insights. Provides for an annual report produced by the department summarizing chronic absence trends, interventions implemented and outcomes achieved by schools across the commonwealth. Requires the development of a school attendance improvement plan (SAIP) collaboratively with students, families of students and community stakeholders that is reviewed at least twice a year, providing for contents that align with a multitiered system of supports (MTSS). Asserts that schools should ensure attendance interventions recognize the diverse backgrounds of students and families and actively engage everyone in the development and implementation of a SAIP. Provides for additional support to students from historically marginalized or vulnerable populations to address disparities in chronic absence. Establishes guidelines for intervention and support strategies in schools. Provides for recognition and resource allocation for schools by the department, recognizing meaningful reductions and targeting resources and assistance to schools in need. Requires the department to provide guidance, training and technical assistance to support schools adopting best practices and implementing a SAIP aligned with MTSS. Asserts that the department should monitor implementation, evaluate effectiveness and provide recommendations for continuous improvements to the framework. Defines "chronic absence," "MTSS" and "SAIP." Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

09/29/2025

Actions

09/26/2025 H - Introduced

HB1885 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, providing for school swimming education program; in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, providing for payments on account of school swimming education program; and making an appropriation.

Sponsor

Rep. G. Roni Green (D)

Summary

(PN 2346) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for school swimming education program; in reimbursements by commonwealth and between school districts, providing for payments on account of school swimming education program; and making an appropriation. Requires the Department of Education (PDE) to identify or develop a model curriculum for swimming safety instruction in water for students in grades kindergarten through 12 before July 1, 2026. Provides guidelines for the model curriculum. Asserts that school entities can utilize the model curriculum or create their own in accordance with academic standards beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Provides that the school entity can partner with local parks and recreation agencies to provide access to a swimming facility or water access and can use appropriate publicly or privately available materials, personnel or other resources to develop and implement the curriculum. Provides for a \$20 million appropriation from the General Fund for the implementation, administration, enforcement and payments for this section. Provides for the adoption of rules and regulations. Defines “department” and “school entity.” Provides that PDE will pay each school entity in compliance with the school swimming education program an amount determined by multiplying the number of students who have completed the program by \$35. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

09/29/2025

Actions

09/26/2025 H - Introduced

09/29/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1889 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in pupils and attendance, further providing for when provided.

Sponsor

Rep. Jeremy Shaffer (R)

Summary

(PN 2350) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, further providing for when provided. Provides that the board of school directors shall determine whether a school bus or vehicle stop should be located within 300 feet of a residence of an individual convicted of a sexual offense. Requires the school board to notify parents or guardians of a child assigned to the school bus or vehicle stop. Provides guidelines for the notice and a request mechanism for an alternate stop. Defines “school bus” and “school vehicle.” Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

09/29/2025

Actions

09/26/2025 H - Introduced

09/29/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1890 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, establishing the Scratch Cooked Meals for Students Pilot Grant Program.

Sponsor

Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)

Summary

(PN 2355) Amends the Public School Code, establishing the Scratch Cooked Meals for Students Pilot Grant Program in the Department of Education (PDE). Provides definitions. Directs PDE to establish guidelines and procedures necessary to implement and administer the pilot program. Expires the pilot program four years from the effective date. Specifies that grants awarded under the pilot program shall be made for a period of two school years. Permits a local education agency to submit an application to PDE for a grant and outlines what the application must include. Details the eligible uses for grant awards. Requires PDE to give priority to local education agencies that serve the greatest proportion of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Establishes reporting requirements for local education agencies and for PDE. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

09/29/2025

Actions

09/29/2025 H - Introduced

09/29/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1910 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in books, furniture and supplies, providing for School Supplies for Educators Grant Program; and establishing the School Supplies for Educators Grant Program.

Sponsor

Rep. Anthony A. Bellmon (D)

Summary

(PN 2391) Amends the Public School Code, in books, furniture and supplies, providing for School Supplies for Educators Grant Program; and establishing the School Supplies for Educators Grant Program in the Department of Education (PDE) to provide funds to teachers and specialized instructional support personnel for the online purchase of school supplies. Outlines duties for PDE. Requires school entities to certify the eligibility of teachers and other support personnel who request a user account. Allows teachers and support personnel in good standing to be eligible for the grant program. Outlines funding that can be used by PDE for the grant program. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

10/01/2025

Actions

09/30/2025 H - Introduced

10/01/2025 H - Referred to - House Finance

SB766 - An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in departmental powers and duties as to licensing, providing for child care center attendance eligibility; and abrogating a regulation.

Sponsor

Sen. Rosemary M. Brown (R)

Summary

(PN 987) Amends the Human Services Code, in departmental powers and duties as to licensing, adding Subarticle E to provide for child care center attendance eligibility. Establishes attendance eligibility, specifying the conditions that need to be met for 55 Pa. Code Ch. 3270 (relating to child care centers) to not apply to a part-day school-age program. Defines "part-day school-age program." Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 823)

Intro Date

05/22/2025

Actions

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

06/30/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

06/30/2025 S - Third consideration and final passage

07/01/2025 H - Referred to - House Children and Youth

10/01/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 10/08/2025, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Children and Youth), Room B31, Main Capitol

SB877 - 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

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)

Summary

(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.

Intro Date

06/23/2025

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 Education

09/29/2025 H - Placed on HVS

SB878 - 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

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)

Summary

(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.

Intro Date

06/23/2025

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 Education

09/29/2025 H - Placed on HVS

Higher Ed Bill Actions

HR333 - A Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a senior military college at the soon-to-close Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus, and to report its findings to the General Assembly.

Sponsor

Rep. Charity Grimm Krupa (R)

Summary

(PN 2396) Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a senior military college at the soon-to-close Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus, and to report its findings to the General Assembly.

Intro Date

10/01/2025

Actions

10/01/2025 H - Introduced

10/01/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

SB375 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in certification of teachers, repealing provisions relating to CPR instruction; in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program; and, in school health services, further providing for definitions, repealing provisions relating to automatic external defibrillators, providing for AED and CPR instruction and procedure, establishing the Automated External Defibrillator Program and providing for availability and specifications of automated external defibrillators.

Sponsor

Sen. Rosemary M. Brown (R)

Summary

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

PDE to accept donations under this section with specified requirements. Outlines content requirements for reports under this section. Allows PDE to adopt other guidelines as necessary to implement this section. Requires school entities and nonpublic schools that participate in interscholastic athletics to have an AED readily accessible. Prohibits this section from being construed as establishing any liability against a school entity or nonpublic school or its officers or employees. Requires school entities and nonpublic schools to ensure each AED is properly tested and maintained. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 912)

Intro Date

06/06/2025

Actions

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

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

06/24/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

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

09/29/2025 H - Placed on HVS

Upcoming Events

MONDAY – 10/06/2025

10:30 AM, [Senate Communications & Technology](#) and [Senate Education](#)

Joint Public Hearing, Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Joint public hearing on AI in education and workforce development.

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.

10:00 AM, SEIU PA on Budget Impasse Impact

Press Conference, Main Capitol Rotunda

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

Public Hearing, Room 60, East Wing

Public hearing on [HB 1260](#).

1:00 PM, PIEA Scholastic Day at the Capitol

Press Conference, Harrisburg Capitol Complex

WEDNESDAY – 10/08/2025

12:00 PM, PA Local Chambers and Early Learning Providers on Budget Impasse Impact

Press Conference, TBD

10:00 AM, [House Children & Youth](#)

Voting Meeting, Room B-31, Main Capitol

To consider: [HB 460](#) and [SB 766](#)

THURSDAY – 10/16/2025

10:00 AM, [Independent Regulatory Review Commission \(IRRC\)](#)

Commission Meeting, 14th Fl., Conference Rm., 333 Market St., Harrisburg

Public hearing on the following regulations: No. 3427 Environmental Quality Board #7-584: Corrections to Additional RACT Requirements for Major Sources of Nox and VOCs for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS (RACT 3); No. 3438 State Board of Pharmacy #16A-5430F: Child Abuse Reporting Requirements; No. 3383 Environmental Quality Board #7-577: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards; No. 3388 Department of Human Services #14-544: Covered Outpatient Drugs; No. 3455 Department of Labor and Industry #12-125: Uniform Construction Code (Final-Omit); No. 3456 Environmental Quality Board #7-590: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Consistency Rule Incorporation by Reference (Final-Omit) – [Agenda](#)

In the News

[09/29/2025 - PASSHE Universities, Schools Collaborate to Ease Teacher Shortage](#)

[09/30/2025 - Ciresi serves up legislation for fresher school lunches](#)

[09/30/2025 - At Middletown Area High School, Governor Shapiro and PDE Acting Secretary Rowe Encourage More Educators, Students, and Parents to Use Information and Digital Literacy Toolkit to Help Kids Develop Critical Thinking, Safely Navigate Online Spaces](#)

[09/30/2025 - First Lady Lori Shapiro Joins PA Humanities, Legislators, and Student Poets to Celebrate Rain Poetry in Pennsylvania](#)

[10/02/2025 - Shapiro Administration Announces New Tuition Discount at Penn State Harrisburg for Commonwealth Employees and Family Members](#)

[10/02/2025 - High School Students Awarded Scholarships for Civic Engagement Vision During 2025 Municipal Leadership Summit](#)

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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