

Nov. 7 – 13, 2025

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SESSION STATUS

At 1:37 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Monday, November 17, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 1:25 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, the Senate recessed until Monday, November 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

Nov. 17-19
Dec. 8-10 (NV), 15-17

Senate

Nov. 17-19
Dec. 8-10

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

SHAPIRO SIGNS OFF ON 2025-2026 FISCAL BUDGET AFTER 135-DAY IMPASSE

By Julia Walters, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | November 12, 2025

Gov. Josh Shapiro, joined by Lt. Gov. Austin Davis and various senators and representatives, signed the official 2025-2026 state budget today in a press conference held in the Governor's Reception Room.

Lt. Gov. Davis began, "Today is truly a great day here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." He thanked legislative leaders and mentioned the passage of the 2025-2026 state budget "stands as a testament and a contrast to the chaos and the confusion that we see coming out of Washington D.C." Lt. Gov. Davis noted the federal "confusion" and "chaos" is the reason many Americans dislike politics. "We have heard from Pennsylvanians all over that they want us to take off our red jerseys and our blue jerseys and put on the Pennsylvania jersey to get stuff done," he said. Lt. Gov. Davis commended the compromises both parties made to come to a finalized budget. He stated that those in Washington, D.C., "should take some notes" on how Pennsylvania governs and comes together. "I'm grateful for the work put in by Gov. Shapiro and the leaders of all four caucuses to get us here today," Lt. Gov. Davis stated. "The road has been long, but the journey was worth it."

Gov. Shapiro thanked leadership, all other members of the House and Senate and the members of his cabinet for their efforts in getting the finalized budget to his desk. He mentioned he introduced his initial budget proposal 281 days ago. Gov. Shapiro reminded that Pennsylvania is one of three states in the nation with a divided legislature. "It requires all of us to compromise, to have tough conversations and ultimately, to find common ground," he said. Gov. Shapiro stated he "ignored short-sighted attempts by some on the other side" to cut important initiatives. He mentioned the current budget cuts taxes, makes "critical" investments, protects the Rainy Day Fund and leaves \$8 billion in reserves. Gov. Shapiro highlighted the additional education funding present in the current budget bill and mentioned it builds on existing education progress. He noted that since he started his tenure as governor, 778 schools in Pennsylvania have been able to expand mental health services, 93 million free breakfasts were served to students and graduation rates are on the rise. "Consumer Affairs now ranks Pennsylvania as one of the top states for a quality public education in the entire country," Gov. Shapiro stated. He explained that the current budget expands funding for basic and special education services, as well as continues to fund existing line items for mental health, free breakfasts and updating infrastructure. He mentioned the adequacy formula for allocating money toward underfunded schools has increased by \$565 million.

Gov. Shapiro highlighted that cyber charter school reforms "will save the commonwealth \$175 million that we can now plow back into our public schools." He noted the budget increases funds for Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) grants as well as invests in "structured literacy" for younger students. "It increases funding for Pre-K and early intervention programs, allowing us to hire more Pre-K teachers and supporting those kids who need just a little bit more help," he added. Gov. Shapiro noted workforce development initiatives that give "at least \$450 in recruitment and retention bonuses" to childcare workers across Pennsylvania. He mentioned the budget also increased the student-teacher stipends to \$30 million and described

them as being “wildly successful” in obtaining more educators. “On top of this, we’re continuing to invest in apprenticeships, in [vocational technical] vo-tech programs, and hands-on education,” Gov. Shapiro stated. He emphasized a 50% increase in Career Technical Education apprenticeships. Gov. Shapiro focused on agriculture, noting it is the top industry in Pennsylvania. He stated his budget “fully” funds the PA Farm Bill and provides \$10 million to help farmers obtain newer technologies through the “first ever” Agriculture Innovation Grant. “At a time when the federal government is cutting funding for our farmers to feed people, we are strengthening the ties between our farmers and our food banks,” he added. Gov. Shapiro highlighted providing \$11 million more for food security and support for Pennsylvanians facing food insecurity. He continued and mentioned the budget ensures funding for avian influenza outbreaks and other emergencies farmers face.

Gov. Shapiro noted upcoming 2026 events such as the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup and Major League Baseball (MLB) All-Star Game, among other events, occurring in Pennsylvania. He stated the budget will invest \$50 toward preparation and safety for those events. Gov. Shapiro mentioned continuing investments in site developments for small businesses, as well as decreased taxes for business owners. “When I kicked off my campaign for governor, our corporate net income tax was 9.99%,” he recalled. “When I sign this budget, it will be reduced to 7.49%.”

Gov. Shapiro announced \$16 million in new funding will go toward the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for additional staff so that permitting processes can continue to become more efficient. He noted the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is absent from the current budget. Gov. Shapiro added he is “looking forward to aggressively pushing for policies that create more jobs in the energy sector, bring more clean energy onto our grid and reduce the cost of energy for all Pennsylvanians.” Gov. Shapiro criticized federal policies that are “driving up” costs for families. He commended his administration for “the largest targeted tax cut for seniors in nearly two decades” that resulted in 522,000 Pennsylvania seniors receiving over \$319 million in tax cuts. Gov. Shapiro stated he is building on this progress by creating a “Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit” that will deliver about \$193 million back to Pennsylvania families. “If you’re a single mom with three kids who makes about 60,000 bucks a year, you could get up to \$805 back in your state tax break next year,” he explained. Gov. Shapiro added that about 940,000 Pennsylvanians will qualify for this tax credit. Gov. Shapiro thanked House Speaker Joanna McCClinton (D-Philadelphia) and House Majority Leader Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery) for their leadership in getting the new tax credit passed.

Gov. Shapiro criticized the federal budget that passed in Washington, D.C. “It’s going to knock about a half a million people off of their health care, closed rural hospitals and a whole lot more,” he said. “I want you to know this group standing up here resisted efforts to kick more people off of Medicaid and make the situation even worse.” Gov. Shapiro commended the current state budget for securing reforms to lower the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) error rate. He mentioned an additional \$5 million in research grants for the purpose of studying neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Gov. Shapiro noted the budget contains 50% more funding for emergency preparedness and provides for 2,000 more municipal police officers and state troopers. “We also understand that preventing violence in our communities requires a two-pronged approach,” he said, mentioning additional 10% investments in community-based violence prevention programs. Gov. Shapiro added that violent crime is down 12% while fatal gun violence is down 42% in Pennsylvania. He thanked Lt. Gov. Davis for his efforts in advocating for community-based violence prevention methods. Gov. Shapiro mentioned a \$2 million increase for the Harrisburg Bureau of Fire and said, “They were there for me and my family when we needed them most.”

Gov. Shapiro added that these funds were more than “a bunch of numbers on a spreadsheet.” He continued, “It’s about investing in the needs of people now and investing in their futures.” Gov. Shapiro commended leadership and his administration for managing the needs of a divided legislature. Gov. Shapiro mentioned he knew the budget process would result in everyone having “to give a little and understand the perspectives of others a little bit better.” He continued, “We did that here, and as a result of our collective work, the good people of Pennsylvania are better off.”

What is the timeline for the additional education funding?

Gov. Shapiro said the Office of the Budget (OOB) will work together with other commonwealth agencies to drive out the dollars “as quickly as possible.”

What are the cyber charter school reforms?

Gov. Shapiro said he believed the cyber charter schools were taking amounts of money that were “not needed” for them to operate effectively. “We’ve returned, in this case, \$175 million, to start, back to our public schools,” he stated. Gov. Shapiro mentioned this allows traditional brick-and-mortar public schools to get their “fair share” of funding.

What was the breakthrough that made this budget happen, and why did it take so long?

Gov. Shapiro responded, “We stayed at the table, and we stood up for the things that mattered most.” He mentioned the importance of understanding different perspectives, notably “the folks on the other side who got elected by a different constituency and represent a different particular point of view.” Gov. Shapiro stated last week was similar to “Eagles or Steelers’ training camp,” recalling conversations with leadership. “Each step of the way, things can kind of blow up or get off the rails,” he continued. Gov. Shapiro

added he tried to keep everything “on the tracks” as much as possible. He thanked leadership for their “challenging” roles in obtaining the proper amount of votes for their respective chambers and caucuses.

Is there a \$7 billion difference between the spending number and actual revenue for the commonwealth?

Gov. Shapiro said, “This is a balanced budget that cuts taxes, that makes critical investments, that doesn’t touch the Rainy Day Fund and leaves \$8 billion in reserves.” He added that Democrats and Republicans came together to vote on this budget. Gov. Shapiro stated Pennsylvania is in a “strong fiscal position.”

Is mass transit funding on the table for next year?

Gov. Shapiro said his administration will continue to work on transit and other “priorities” that are not in the current budget this year. He added that they had to accept a compromise, but transit remains a “critical” issue.

What comes after RGGI?

Gov. Shapiro highlighted his Lightning Plan and said, “The House will continue to push that forward.” He noted the plan has the support of the Pennsylvania Building & Construction Trades Council and other environmental groups. Gov. Shapiro added he has had “really direct conversations” with Senate Republican leadership to act on energy issues. “We haven’t done anything big on energy since the Rendell administration,” he said. “The time is now.”

Do you expect to need additional revenue sources next year?

Gov. Shapiro joked, “I’m signing this year’s budget,” before adding that the 2025-2026 budget “sets us on a very, very strong path for the future.”



Committee News

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

Senate Republican Policy Committee

11/10/2025, 2:30 p.m., Trappe Fire Company #1, 20 W 5th Ave. Trappe

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a public hearing on protections against harmful artificial intelligence (AI).

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R-Monroe), the prime sponsor of [SB 1050](#), emphasized the significance of AI and its potential for innovation and harm, particularly to children. She mentioned the passage of [Act 125 of 2024 \(SB 1213\)](#) and [Act 35 of 2025 \(SB 649\)](#), aimed at combating deep fakes and AI-generated child sexual abuse material (CSAM). She said SB 1050 aimed to address the creation of CSAM by minors and mandate reporting to law enforcement. She expressed concern over the interaction between youth and AI chatbots. She advocated for measures to protect children in the digital age.

Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne), chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, stressed the importance of collaboration between committees on AI. She highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive policies to address the misuse of AI, especially in exploiting children. She emphasized the importance of developing smart policies, laws and regulations to manage AI’s use in various aspects of life.

Margaret Durkin, executive director, Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic Region, TechNet, discussed TechNet’s commitment to the responsible use of AI and machine learning, emphasizing efforts to create a safe online experience. She addressed the challenges posed by chatbots leading to self-harm among youth and underscored the importance of parental involvement, education and digital literacy in safeguarding children online.

Sen. Pennycuick asked about collaborative opportunities between the tech industry and state agencies to develop protective guardrails for AI that do not stifle innovation, emphasizing the desire to protect children while supporting AI innovation. Durkin suggested collaborating with member companies like Google and Meta to educate parents on managing their children’s online activities. She advocated for balanced legislation that considers both business and consumer interests. Sen. Pennycuick asked about the necessity of a uniform standard reporting requirement for AI-generated content related to CSAM, questioning whether it should be reported to the attorney general’s office or local district attorneys. Durkin said an upcoming federal mandate requires reporting to the Attorney General.

Chairman David Argall (R-Schuylkill) asked how members keep up with rapidly changing technology. Durkin explained that the ability of TechNet members to keep up with technological advancements is due to the balance and freedom provided by current legislation, which allows for innovation without excessive regulation. She highlighted Amazon's use of technology for detecting CSAM through hashing and fingerprints. She noted that CSAM is increasingly found in video content.

Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York) highlighted a specific incident involving AI-created images circulating in schools and asked about the recourse victims have when they submit a claim to one of the platforms. Durkin explained that platforms typically remove CSAM content immediately upon receiving a claim and mentioned that individuals could pursue civil action, but TechNet generally advises against private rights of action, preferring enforcement by the Attorney General.

Sen. Pennycuick inquired why companies struggle to prevent their generative AI tools from being used in creating CSAM. Durkin mentioned that Amazon has measures to detect and prevent CSAM within its AI models.

Sen. Baker asked about the handling of AI-generated materials that depict synthetic children and what legal changes might be necessary to address this issue. Durkin responded that if such content were identified as CSAM, it would be removed and reported to the appropriate authorities, similar to any other CSAM case. Sen. Baker emphasized the importance of having precise definitions to empower prosecutors in tackling child exploitation cases.

Sen. Cris Dush (R-Jefferson) asked if companies are using AI to track and change code words used by traffickers and to intercept transactions. He emphasized the importance of collaboration with the FBI and the attorney general's office in using AI to track and intercept transactions involving code words used by traffickers. Durkin said she did not have specific answers on that subject. Sen. Dush inquired about the development of AI in analyzing images to identify CSAM. Durkin confirmed that platforms are constantly updating their AI models to detect and remove CSAM. Sen. Dush supported Texas's decision to require age verification on pornography websites, suggesting that the commonwealth do the same. Durkin acknowledged the complexity of age verification within the industry, expressing willingness to provide further information.

Leslie Slingsby, CEO, services and operations, Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center, testified on the dangers of AI-generated CSAM, emphasizing the harm they cause and the legal gap in Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) that fails to address AI-generated CSAM. She advocated for its inclusion under mandated reporting laws.

Angela Liddle, president and CEO, Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA), voiced her support for SB 1050, emphasizing the need to protect youth from digital dangers and the evolution of CSAM facilitated by AI. She discussed a recent Pennsylvania conviction involving AI-generated CSAM and the alarming rise in such materials.

Christian Pinedo, vice president, external affairs and advocacy, The AI Education Project (aiEDU), emphasized the importance of AI literacy and readiness within K-12 systems to protect and prepare students for the challenges and opportunities presented by AI. He raised concerns about AI companionship's potential to foster emotional dependency among adolescents and the lack of sufficient AI training for teachers. Pinedo advocated for systemic approaches to AI literacy, involving educators, families and students. She called for statewide training, integration of AI literacy into learning standards, rigorous age verification, public awareness campaigns and parent education initiatives.

Sen. Pennycuick asked about instilling responsible AI use for children. Pinedo discussed the importance of introducing AI tools in education at the right time, emphasizing foundational skills and the need for clear guidelines on the appropriate age for AI introduction. Sen. Pennycuick asked about parent engagement in AI safety. Pinedo highlighted the importance of educating parents on AI tools and safety measures. Sen. Pennycuick then inquired about the effectiveness of age verification systems. Pinedo noted that age verifications are necessary but not sufficient on their own.

Chairman Argall expressed concerns about the rapid technological changes outpacing legislation and asked for advice on drafting flexible laws. Slingsby admitted the difficulty in predicting technological impacts for future legislation. Liddle discussed the challenge of legislating common sense and the concept of "family digital health," emphasizing the role of parents in modeling digital behavior. Chairman Argall highlighted the importance of precise legislative language to avoid misinterpretation.

Sen. Baker asked about the adequacy of SB 1050's language. Liddle suggested the bill should suffice until new issues emerge. Slingsby voiced her support for the bill.

Sen. Phillips-Hill inquired about requiring parental consent for AI technology. Pinedo discussed the challenges of implementing parental consent for children's use of technology and social media, highlighting privacy concerns, the difficulty in establishing a parent-child connection and the ineffectiveness of consent practices due to the complexity of AI platforms. Sen. Phillips-Hill asked about necessary actions to protect children online, acknowledging that age verification alone is not sufficient. Pinedo emphasized

the need for providing prosecutors with more tools and increasing education on the dangers of technology misuse, suggesting a parallel approach to drug education programs, including laws regulating media content. Sen. Phillips-Hill asked for solutions beyond passing legislation. Liddle discussed the importance of inclusive brainstorming with all education system partners to enhance child protection. She noted the challenges parents face due to technological advancements and the urgency of addressing gaps in awareness.

Sen. Pennycuick expressed frustration over the failures of mandatory reporters. She asked for suggestions on supporting victims and protecting them from future harm, especially concerning the distribution of manipulated images online. Liddle acknowledged the concerns about the long-term effects on victims unable to remove compromising images from the internet. Slingsby mentioned a response team in Montgomery County for cases of sexual exploitation involving children, highlighting the importance of a dedicated team that includes detectives, prosecutors and trauma therapists. Sen. Pennycuick noted that children often find ways around preventive technology. She asked for suggestions on ensuring kids can live their lives without worrying about their digital footprint. Slingsby discussed the lack of trauma therapists trained in evidence-based curricula across Pennsylvania and the use of technology to bridge this gap. She mentioned that Mission Kids developed a curriculum with local psychologists to support children and families statewide.

Sen. Dush talked about the lasting impact of victimization from incest, rape and institutional abuse. He praised child advocacy centers for their support of victims. He emphasized the need for severe sentencing, education and awareness programs in schools. He called for mandatory training for mandated reporters. Liddle highlighted the need for adequate county-level funding to support child abuse investigations, pointing out the challenges of funding shortages and high turnover rates. She stressed that increased education would lead to more abuse reports, necessitating a well-resourced system to handle them. Sen. Dush underscored the importance of the privately-funded Jefferson County Advocacy Center and the effectiveness of in-person interactions for forensic interviews and counseling.

Chairman Argall spoke on the importance of family influence on children's outcomes, stating that while the government can encourage good parenting, it cannot mandate it. Slingsby agreed that parents often lack the necessary skills and information, describing a program aimed at educating parents with low participation rates. She advocated for making educational content shorter and more accessible. Liddle emphasized the need for a long-term commitment to changing societal norms and behaviors through continuous education. Pinedo discussed the potential of school systems in significantly impacting parent education on digital literacy. He called for state support in enhancing K-12 systems' capacity to respond to digital age challenges.

Angela Sperrazza, chief deputy attorney general, Office of Attorney General (OAG), discussed the importance of protecting youth from AI, emphasizing the evolution of the Child Predator Section of OAG since 1995 and its role in combating CSAM. She praised SB 1050 for updating mandated reporter frameworks to include AI-generated CSAM and stressed the importance of early detection and intervention.

Gabriella Glenning, assistant district attorney, Office of the Montgomery County District Attorney, highlighted the importance of SB 1050 for mandated reporting of CSAM and related crimes, drawing on her experience as an assistant district attorney. She highlighted the challenges posed by AI-generated CSAM and supported the bill's expansion to include CSAM and unlawful dissemination of intimate images in mandated reporting. She advocated for a nuanced approach to juvenile offenders.

Sen. Pennycuick inquired about the types of cases being observed, specifically child-on-child cases, and whether adults are using internet images to create concerning content. Glenning described a mix of CSAM cases, including adult perpetrators fabricating child pornography and student-on-student cases involving blackmail or sexual extortion.

Sen. Phillips-Hill inquired about the recourse victims have if a platform only removes an image, inquiring about the role of law enforcement in such situations. Glenning explained the process following a victim's report of abuse, emphasizing the immediate initiation of an investigation and the facilitation provided by recent legislation. Sen. Phillips-Hill asked about how SB 1050 would assist OAG. Sperrazza said OAG has run into many AI-related cases. She said SB 1050 would allow for speeding up the legal process and improving mandated reporting.

Sen. Pennycuick asked about the sufficiency of federal support for prosecuting individuals involved in CSAM across state lines and whether there are additional measures that federal partners could take to enhance their capabilities in addressing interstate issues. Sperrazza explained that jurisdiction allows for the prosecution of cases where the sender and receiver are sharing illicit content with agents in Pennsylvania, emphasizing the strong relationships with federal partners and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. She highlighted the importance of preventative education in aiding law enforcement.

Chairman Argall praised Sen. Pennycuick for her leadership and advocacy on the issue of protecting children from harmful AI. He asked for an update on SB 1050.

Sen. Pennycuick said the bill was passed in the Senate Judiciary Committee with a unanimous vote. She stressed the importance of the General Assembly's responsibility to craft good legislation.



Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

11/11/2025, 8:30 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Julia Walters, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider one bill.

[SB 315](#) - (PN 1226) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, providing an assessment of basic skills; in pupils and attendance, further providing for exceptional children and education and training; in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program and providing for school safety and mental health grants for 2025-2026 school year; in Drug and alcohol Recovery High School Program, further providing for scope of program and selection of students and for enrollment of students; in charter schools, further providing for funding for cyber charter schools; in career and technical education, further providing for career and technical education equipment grants; in community colleges, further providing for financial program and reimbursement of payments; in state colleges, further providing for powers and duties of State Board of Higher Education, for definitions, for Performance-Based Funding Council and for public institution of higher education reporting, establishing the State-Related University Performance Fund and providing for Performance-Based Funding formula and for public accountability; in funding for public libraries, providing for state aid for Fiscal year 2025-2026; in reimbursement by commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for student-weighted basic education funding beginning with 2023-2024 school year, for assistance to school districts declared to be in financial recovery status or identified for financial watch status and for Ready-To-Learn Block Grant; and, in construction and renovation of buildings by school entities, further providing for applicability. Removes the requirement of a basic skills assessment for admission into a commonwealth educator preparation program or required for issuance by the Department of Education (PDE) for a certificate type or area, including an instructional, career and technical, education specialist, intern or administrative certificate. Subjects reporting of expenditures related to exceptional students to PDE guidance and lists required contents. Appropriates \$100,000,000 for school safety and mental health grants and \$27,700,000 for targeted school safety grants for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Elaborates on school safety and mental health grants and the purpose of grants for the 2025-2026 school year. Lists amounts of grants. Provides for the availability of applications. Requires random auditing and monitoring of grant recipients. Defines "school entity." Stipulates beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, a maximum of 35 students in grades 9 through 12 may be enrolled in the Recovery High School under the program at any one time. Provides for non-special education students. Elaborates on the amounts a cyber charter school shall receive for each non-special education student enrolled. Requires PDE to use data for the calculations required under this section based on the most recent years for which data is available, as determined by PDE, and shall fix the data as of the first day of June preceding the school year in which the allocation occurs. Mandates PDE to revise calculations accordingly if the data based on the first day of June is found by PDE to be incorrect. Lists how much each community college shall receive for the fiscal year 2025-2026. Provides several definitions relating to the State Board of Higher Education. Directs the Performance-Based Funding Council to oversee the funding formula by assigning performance goals and weights and male legislative recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly regarding the formula. Provides for council terms of service. Requires the General Assembly and PDE to provide administrative support. Revised powers and duties of the council. Provides for workforce outcomes. Mandates each state-related university to annually transmit data to PDE no later than February 1 of each year and PDE shall transmit data to the Council in a timely manner. Requires PDE to share data with the council and lists applicability. Explains the section's construction. Elaborates on the composition and appropriations of the State-Related University Performance Fund. Provides for the Performance-Based Funding Formula and the student-weighted count. Outlines maximum performance allocation and performance metrics and goals. Provides for other allocation calculations. Highlights the public accountability requirements. Provides for state aid for fiscal year 2025-2026. Specifies amounts and calculations for student-based allocations. Provides applicability. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 249). The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A01233](#), by Rothman, provides various policy changes as well as a funding distribution related to fiscal year 2025-2026. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Regarding the amendment, Minority Chairman Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) mentioned he had the "opportunity" to review the amendment and asked for an affirmative vote.

Seeing no further discussion, Chairman Joe Pittman (R-Indiana) recessed the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee until the call of the chair.



House Appropriations Committee

11/12/2025, 9:15 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Zoe Buchmann, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider two bills.

[HB 1421](#) - (PN 1645) The State-related University Nonpreferred Appropriation Act of 2025 provides for funding for certain state-related universities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, for costs basis, for frequency of payments and for recordkeeping requirements; imposes a duty on the Auditor General; providing for financial statements, for the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund and for restrictions; and makes appropriations. Provides definitions. Directs that payments made to a state-related university on account of an appropriation under the act must be made on the basis of costs during the current fiscal year. Provides for monthly payments. Directs that estimated costs be submitted to the Secretary of Education, the General Assembly and the State Treasurer not later than 30 days prior to the date on which the payment is to be made. Provides for the duties of state-related universities. Provides duties of the Auditor General. Directs state-related universities to provide full, complete and accurate information as may be required by the Department of Education or the chairperson or minority chairperson of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Directs state-related universities to present and report required financial statements. Appropriates the money of the restricted account within the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund. Provides restrictions, limitations and conditions on the use of appropriations. Provides \$242,096,000 to Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) for general support. Provides \$35,670,000 to Penn State for the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Provides \$151,507,00 to the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) for general support. Provides \$3,791,000 to Pitt for rural education outreach. Provides \$158,206,000 to Temple University for general support. Provides \$21,890,000 to Lincoln University for general support. Effective immediately. The bill was **reported as amended**, along a party-line vote, with Reps. Marla Brown (R-Lawrence), Charity Grimm Krupa (R-Fayette), Eric Nelson (R-Westmoreland) and Ryan Warner (R-Fayette) voting in the negative.

[A02079](#), by Harris, adds the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (UPenn Vet) to the provisions of the bill and makes editorial adjustments. The amendment was **adopted**, on a party-line vote, with Reps. Brown, Krupa, Nelson and Warner voting in the negative.

[SB 731](#) - (PN 749) Amends the State Lottery Law, in pharmaceutical assistance for the elderly, providing for short title of chapter and further providing for determination of eligibility; and making an editorial change. Designates the title of the chapter as the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly Act. Updates the years of eligibility. Extends eligibility expiration to December 31, 2027. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A02107](#), by Harris, increases the eligibility threshold for seniors in the program. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.



House Rules Committee

11/12/2025, 12:00 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Daniel Sachetta, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider two bills.

HB 749 – (PN 2575) Amends the Human Services Code, in public assistance, adding a section to provide for the distribution of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to administer quarterly checks on income and employment records and monthly checks for death certificates of recipients of medical assistance and SNAP benefits. Adds considerations to support economic self-sufficiency for subsidized childcare copayments. Provides that copayments shall be in accordance with federal and state law, based on a family's annual income, rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Provides that a minimum copayment should not be applied to special populations determined by DHS. Mandates a family's annual copayment shall be no less than 3% and not more than 7% of a family's income, which is at or below 235% of the federal poverty income guidelines and between 7% and 12% of a family's income if the income exceeds 235% but not more than 300% of the federal poverty income guidelines. Provides for eligibility for subsidized childcare. Provides that a family's annual income cannot exceed 235% of the federal poverty income guidelines at an initial determination and cannot exceed 235% if federal poverty income guidelines or 85% of the state median income at redetermination. Establishes exceptions for redetermination if a family's income does not exceed 300% of federal poverty income guidelines or 85% of state median income, no less than \$25 million of appropriated funds to DHS for child-care services, a temporary change in parent or caretaker status as working or attending a job training or educational program or an increase in income not exceed 85% of the state median income. Directs DHS to provide a report on the transition to chip-enabled access cards for SNAP benefits. Details the contents of the report and the instructions for the distribution of the report. Mandates DHS to provide an annual written report to the chairpersons and minority chairpersons of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the House Human Services Committee. Specifies the information to be included in the annual report to the extent permitted by federal law, with data available and accessible to DHS without a change or update to an information system or database. Provides for the suspension of medical assistance benefits for the period of a recipient's incarceration. Directs DHS to conduct a study alongside the Department of Aging and the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) on the use of a brokerage model to provide nonemergency medical transportation services to medical assistance recipients. Details the contents of the study and subsequent report, which should be completed no later than 180 days from the effective date of the subsection and establishes the recipients of the study. Provides for the abrogation of regulatory requirements for the payment of outpatient behavioral health services within the physical confines of behavioral health clinic facilities. Directs DHS to provide an annual review of the financial costs, distribution, and utilization of benefits under SNAP. Provides for the contents of the annual SNAP report and the dispersion of the report. Requires DHS to publish the report within 30 days of its completion on its publicly accessible website. Directs DHS to develop and implement updates to the SNAP payment distribution schedule in consultation with an advisory committee if recommendations are made in the annual report. Provides that if the implementation of changes results in costs, DHS should pay for the costs using funding available from the Enterprise and Technology restricted account. Mandates DHS to transmit updates to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication and ensure that the updated distribution schedule is posted on its publicly accessible website. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1332, 756). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

SB 315 – (PN 1310) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for Special Education Funding Commission and for minimum number of days or hours; in duties and powers of boards of school directors, providing for admission fees for school-sponsored activities; in intermediate units, further providing for staff; in certification of teachers, further providing for certificates qualifying persons to teach and for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of department, providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and for State certificate fee reduction, further providing for standard employment application, for career and technical instructional certificate, for program of continuing professional and paraprofessional education and for postbaccalaureate certification, providing for assessment of basic skills, further providing for professional educator discipline fee and providing for career and technical administrative director certification flexibility; in pupils and attendance, further providing for attendance policy at charter, regional charter and cyber charter schools, for procedure when child is truant, for procedure by school when child habitually truant, for procedure upon filing of citation, for penalties for violating compulsory school attendance requirements and for study of truancy procedure, providing for department supports to prevent truancy and further providing for reports to Superintendent of Public Instruction and for exceptional children and education and training; in student supports, further providing for definitions; in school safety and security, further providing for definitions, for School Safety and Security Committee, for school safety and security assessment providers, for School Safety and Security Grant Program, for school safety and security coordinator and for school safety and security training, providing for school safety and mental health grants for 2025-2026 school year and further providing for reporting and memorandum of understanding; in school security, further providing for training, for school resource officers, for school security guards and for duties of commission; in Safe2Say Program, further providing for intent, for definitions, for Safe2Say Program and for annual report; in threat assessment, further providing for definitions, for threat assessment teams and for threat assessment guidelines, training and information materials; in Drug and Alcohol Recovery High School Program, further providing for scope of program and selection of students and for enrollment of students; in evidence-based reading instruction, further providing for definitions and providing for school entity duties related to evidence-based reading instruction, for school entity duties related to reading screening, for reading deficiency identification and

parental notification, for reading intervention plans, for grant program, for funding, for reporting, for accountability and for construction; in high schools, further providing for attendance in other districts and providing for Free Application for Federal Student Aid; in interscholastic athletics accountability, further providing for council recommendations and standards; in charter schools, further providing for funding for cyber charter schools, for enrollment and notification and for enrollee wellness checks; in career and technical education, further providing for capital reserve fund for approved purchases of equipment and facility maintenance, for career and technical education equipment grants, for Cosmetology Training through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program and for Barber Training through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program; providing for Nursing Shortage Assistance Program; in community colleges, further providing for financial program and reimbursement of payments; in the State System of Higher Education, further providing for definitions and for Grow Pennsylvania Merit Scholarship Program; in educational tax credits, further providing for limitations; in higher education accountability and transparency, further providing for exit counseling; in miscellaneous provisions relating to institutions of higher education, repealing provisions relating to State-related university performance-based funding model, further providing for prohibition on scholarship displacement at public institutions of higher education and providing for cooperation and for State scholarship renewals; in institutions of higher education, further providing for powers and duties of State Board of Higher Education, for definitions, for Performance-based Funding Council and for public institution of higher education reporting, providing for state-related University Performance Fund, for performance-based funding formula and for public accountability and further providing for agency duties, for grant priority and for report; in Ready-to-Succeed Scholarship, further providing for agency; in funding for public libraries, providing for State aid for fiscal year 2025-2026; in reimbursements by commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for student-weighted basic education funding beginning with 2023-2024 school year, for extraordinary special education program expenses, for assistance to school districts declared to be in financial recovery status or identified for financial watch status and for Ready-to-Learn Block Grant; in construction and renovation of buildings by school entities, further providing for applicability; abrogating regulations; and making an editorial change. Removes the requirement for a basic skills assessment to enter educator preparation programs or obtain certain teaching certificates. Specifies how schools must report special education costs, defining eligible and ineligible expenditures. Creates a new School Safety and Mental Health Grant Program for the 2025-2026 school year, allocating \$100 million for general grants and \$20.7 million for targeted safety grants. Expands the Recovery High School Program, raising the enrollment cap from 20 to 35 students, resulting in an estimated \$216,900 increase in annual costs to the Department of Education. Revises the cyber charter funding formula. Updates career and technical education equipment grants to require data to be current and corrected if found inaccurate. Establishes a Performance-Based Funding Council and performance framework for higher education, linking future appropriations to workforce outcomes. Reorganizes and redistributes existing education funds, expands certain programs and implements funding reforms. Abrogates any regulation inconsistent with the addition of section 1221 of the act, the regulations at 22 Pa. Code Ch. 49 to the extent of any inconsistency with this act and the regulations at 22 Pa. Code § 49.85(c) and (d) insofar as they are inconsistent with this act. Outlines what provisions apply retroactively to July 1, 2025. The addition of section 1203.1, the amendment of section 1216.1 (d), the addition of section 1333 (a) (2.1) and (2.2) and (c.1) and the addition of section 1333.3(l) are effective in 30 days. The amendment or addition of section 1205.2(k) introductory paragraph, (2) and (2.2) and (k.2), the amendment or addition of section 1327.2(a) and (a.1), the addition of section 1333.2(i), the addition of section 1333.3(j), the amendment or addition of section 1303-d heading, (a), (c)(11), (12) and (13), (d) and (e) and the amendment or addition of section 1748-a(a), (a.1), (b), (d) and (e) are effective in 60 days. The amendment of section 1327.2(c), the addition of section 1333.1(d.1), the addition of section 1333.5 and the amendment of section 1339 are effective Aug. 1, 2026. The remainder of this act is effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1307, 1226, 249). The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.



House Rules Committee

11/12/2025, 12:15 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

By Daniel Sachetta, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider one bill.

[HB 416](#) – (PN 2576) Amends the Fiscal Code providing for Child Care Staff Recruitment and Retention Program; in 911 Emergency Communication Services, further providing for surcharge; in Department of Revenue (DOR), further providing for exclusion from classes of income and providing for research and experimental expenditures and qualified production property, for report to General Assembly and for interest expense; in joint underwriting association, further providing for findings and for definitions, repealing provisions relating to sunset and providing for risk-based capital certification, for fund transfers, for association oversight and additional duties, for Joint Underwriting Association Board, for board meetings, for construction, for dissolution, for appropriations and for reports and hearings; in State Health Insurance Exchange Affordability Program, further providing for Exchange Affordability Assistance Account; providing for Rural Health Transformation Program; in Treasury Department, providing for waiver of interest, costs and fees; in procedure for disbursement of money from the State Treasury, further providing for use and appropriation of unused commonwealth funds; in oil and gas wells, further providing for Oil and Gas Lease Fund; providing for advanced air mobility sites and for public transportation vehicles; in human services, further providing for resident care and related costs; in Attorney General, providing for home improvement contractor registration fee; providing for Rare Disease Advisory Council, for affordable housing tax credit and for working Pennsylvanians tax credit; in additional keystone opportunity expansion zones, providing for additional keystone opportunity expansion zones for certain counties of the fourth class; providing for additional extensions of keystone opportunity zones; in special funds, further providing for funding, for expiration and for other grants; in additional special funds and restricted accounts, further providing for establishment of special fund and account, for use of fund and for distributions from Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund and providing for refund of 2003 assessment by Insurance Department; in additional special funds and restricted accounts relating to Service and Infrastructure Improvement Fund, further providing for deposits and providing for Property Tax Relief Fund; in general budget implementation, further providing Executive Offices, for Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), for Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), for Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), for Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and for Commonwealth Financing Authority, providing for stenography services, further providing for surcharges, for federal and commonwealth use of forest land and for Multimodal Transportation Fund and providing for State Sexual Offenders Assessment Board, for interest transfers, for fund transfers and for miscellaneous provisions; in 2024-2025 budget implementation, further providing for Department of Education (PDE), for DEP and for Department of Human Services (DHS); in Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development Program, further providing for scope of article, for definitions and for the Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development Program, providing for review and determination of specific permits and for state agency permits and further providing for construction; providing for electricity load forecast accountability, for 2025-2026 budget implementation and for 2025-2026 restrictions on appropriations for funds and accounts; making repeals; and making editorial changes. Adds definitions. Establishes the program in the department, outlining application, determination and allocation of payment requirements. Requires compliance and reporting. Allows the department to promulgate regulations. Provides for exclusions from classes of income, including the amount received by a holocaust survivor as part of holocaust reparations. Amends the Tax Reform Code to include research and experimental expenditures and qualified production property. Establishes reporting requirements. Provides for interest expenses. Repeals section 207-D regarding sunset provisions. Provides for risk-based capital certification and fund transfers. Grants oversight of the Joint Underwriting Association to the department and outlines the association's duties, including reporting and planning. Establishes the Joint Underwriting Association Board, outlining membership, terms, compensation and staff requirements. Establishes that the association is considered an independent agency, outlining its purpose. Adds that it may only be dissolved by the General Assembly. Provides for appropriations and establishes reporting and hearing requirements. Establishes the Rural Health Transformation Program, adds definitions, outlines powers and duties and establishes a restricted account within the General Fund. Outlines deposits and appropriation requirements. Provides for Waivers of interstate costs and fees. Increases the total transfer limit to \$40 million. Provides for advanced air mobility sites, adds definitions and requirements. Allows public transportation vehicles to carry illuminated signs. Increases the expiration date of section 1603-T to December 31, 2026. Provides for the home improvement contractors registration fee. Establishes the Rare Disease Advisory Council, outlining membership, term, duties, meetings and compensation requirements. Provides for funding for the council, establishes reporting requirements and sets the expiration date for the article to July 1, 2028. Establishes the Affordable Housing Tax Credit, outlining the purpose, and establishes it as a program of the agency. Provides for authority, application, selection, disbursement and monitoring procedures. Requires notice, comment and reports submissions. Establishes the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program fund within the agency. Provides tax credit authority to the agency, outlining limitations and sale procedures. Provides for payments for tax credits and certificates. Adds prohibitions and penalties. Allows the claiming of the tax credit, outlining the time period requirements. Provides for carryover, carry back and assignment provisions. Establishes the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit equal to 10% of the federal earned income tax credit and outlines the eligibility requirements. Provides for regulations, applicability and establishes additional keystone opportunity expansion zones for certain counties of the fourth class. Provides for affiliates, application procedures, qualification and expiration requirements and for applicability. Adds that no amount of the surplus in the

General Fund for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 may be deposited into the budget stabilization reserve fund. Makes the sum of \$45,269,814 available for distribution or reimbursement for water and sewer projects with a cost of not less than \$30,000 and not more than \$500,000. Makes \$5,709,187 of the funds available to the authority for the H2O PA Program. Adds that money appropriated for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis support services shall be distributed in fiscal year 2024-2025, under section 22 regarding use of funds. Adds that the department may approve a one-year extension for each pediatric cancer research grant awarded prior to fiscal year 2025-2026 under Chapter 9 of the Tobacco Settlement Act. Directs the department to transfer \$15,305,000 from the fund to the State Racing Fund for fiscal year 2025-2026 and extends the subsection expiration date to 2028. Provides for refunds of the 2003 assessment by the Insurance Department, outlining the submission, form and eligibility requirements. Excludes carriers in liquidation from receiving the refund and establishes reporting requirements. Adds subarticle F regarding the Property Tax Relief Fund, adding definitions and making a transfer from the fund to the state lottery, outlining the required amount calculations. Adds funds allocated prior to fiscal year 2025-2026 for non-narcotic medication substance use disorder treatment for eligible offenders that remain unexpended and uncommitted to be used by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for grants to counties to provide medication-assisted treatment, under section 1712-E (a) regarding appropriations for the executive offices. Allows the commission to also use funds dedicated under the Medical Marijuana Act and any uncommitted money available. Extends notice deadline requirements. Directs the secretary of the budget to transfer \$59,250,000 to the Enterprise and Technology Restricted Account for fiscal year 2025-2026 from money appropriated to agencies for operating expenses under the governor's jurisdiction for fiscal years 2024-2025 and outline the fund split per agency. Replaces language in section 1719-E (a.3) to include the Keystone Opportunity Zone, Keystone Opportunity Expansion and Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone Act, outlining owner requirements and real property criteria. Provides that federal money appropriated for the Inflation Reduction Act – Solar For All is appropriated to the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority and outlines eligible uses. Provides for the use of money in the Fish Fund and the Boat Fund under PFBC and adds reporting requirements. Directs PHEAA to determine a level of financial need for eligible students. Requires DCED to use up to 3% of the money available for the Solar for Schools Grant Program to pay direct administrative costs. Specifies that no less than 425 million shall be used from money transferred to the authority in fiscal year 2025-2026 for transfer to the public school facility improvement grant program. Provides for the transfer of \$25 million to the agency and outlines the per-program division. Prohibits money appropriated for stenography services for administrative proceedings from being used to create a stenographic transcript. Provides for compensation of the state sexual offenders assessment board members. Provides for the transfer of special fund interest of the general fund, outlining transfer and evaluation procedures. Provides for transfers to the lottery fund. Provides for the local revitalization tax, outlining the divisions per county classification. Adds that from money appropriated for payment for tuition to school districts providing education to nonresident orphaned children, the department shall pay to an intermediate unit in a county of the second class no less than \$2.9 million, under section 1723-H pertaining to PDE. Provides for storage tank site-specific installation permits under subarticle (b) related to DEP permits. Outlines the review and determination of specific permits, including air pollution and water quality. Provides for state agency permits, requiring the state agencies to compile a list of permits and establishes reporting requirements. Establishes a tracking system for permit applications, outlining content and notice requirements. Provides for electricity load forecast accountability, requiring the PUC to review and validate load forecasts. Required the commission to investigate the methodologies, data and assumptions used by utilities when developing load forecasts submitted to PJM. Outlines conduct and outcome procedures. Provides access to confidential contracts and information to the commission. Establishes additional annual reporting requirements. Applies the act to the general appropriations act of 2025 and all other appropriation acts of 2025. Outlines the appropriation calculations per system for PCCD. Provides appropriations to the Attorney General, outlining the divisions per system. Provides for appropriations to the Department of Agriculture (PDA), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), PDE, the Department of General Services (DGS), the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I), DHS, the Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and PHEAA. Provides for restrictions on appropriations for funds and accounts for fiscal years 2025-2026 and adds definitions. Allows money to be deposited into the Pennsylvania Preferred Organic Trademark Licensing Fund and allows PDA to use up to \$165,000 in total for the Agriculture Conservation Easement Purchase Fund. Provides for restricted receipt accounts, outlining the applicable programs and funds. The additions of sections 216(a) through (f) apply to taxable years beginning after December 21, 2024. The addition of section 217 applies retroactively to tax years beginning after December 31, 2024. The amendment, addition or repeal of sections 201-D, 202-D, 210-D, 212-D, 213-D, 214-D, 215-D and 216-D and section 49(1) and (2) are effective in 60 days. The remainder of the act is effective immediately. (Prior PN: 392). The bill was unanimously reported as committed.



Senate Appropriations Committee

11/12/2025, 12:30 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider one bill.

[HB 1421](#) - (PN 2589) The State-Aided University Nonpreferred Appropriation Act of 2025 provides for funding for certain state-aided universities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, for costs basis, for frequency of payments and for recordkeeping requirements; imposes a duty on the Auditor General; provides for financial statements, for the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund and for restrictions; and makes appropriations. Provides definitions and amends the definition “state-aided university” to include the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn). Directs that payments made to a state-aided university on account of an appropriation under the act must be made on the basis of costs during the current fiscal year. Provides for monthly payments. Directs that estimated costs be submitted to the Secretary of Education, the General Assembly and the State Treasurer not later than 30 days prior to the date on which the payment is to be made. Provides for the duties of state-aided universities. Provides for the duties of the Auditor General. Directs state-aided universities to provide full, complete and accurate information as may be required. Requires the Board of Trustees of UPenn to report, on forms provided by the Department of Agriculture, to the chairperson and minority chairperson of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by Sept. 30, 2026, how state-appropriated money was expended for fiscal year 2025-2026 to reduce the costs to Pennsylvania resident students or to provide services to Pennsylvania residents. Outlines how state-aided universities shall present and report their financial statements required under this act. Appropriates the money of the restricted account within the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund for the current fiscal year to establish the restricted account. Provides for restrictions, limitations and conditions on the use of appropriations, adding provisions for how money appropriated by this act to UPenn shall be conditioned. Provides \$242,096,000 to the Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) for general support. Provides \$35,670,000 to Penn State for the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Provides \$151,507,00 to the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) for general support. Provides \$3,981,000 to Pitt for rural education outreach. Provides \$158,206,000 to Temple University for general support. Provides \$21,890,000 to Lincoln University for general support. Provides \$31,560,000 to UPenn for veterinary activities. Provides \$1,793,000 to UPenn for the Center for Infectious Diseases. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1645). The bill was **reported as committed** with Sen. Jarret Coleman (R-Lehigh) voting in the negative and Chairman Scott Martin (R-Lancaster) not voting.



House Judiciary Committee

11/12/2025, 1:00 p.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

[HB 384](#) – (PN 349) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in burglary and other criminal intrusion, further providing for the offense of criminal trespass. Permits the court to authorize an evaluation for a person to determine if a person has a gambling disorder and whether there is a need for counseling or treatment as part of the sentence or pre-adjudication disposition. Requires the evaluation to be conducted by a clinician appointed by the court and shall include recommendations for levels of care, continuing care and monitoring. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 458](#) – (PN 440) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in post-trial matters, further providing for eligibility for relief, providing for postconviction review for veterans with service-connected mental health disability and further providing for jurisdiction and proceedings; and, in sentencing, further providing for sentencing procedure for murder of the first degree. Allows an individual serving or awaiting a sentence as a result of a first-degree murder charge to submit a written motion for the court to conduct a mental health evaluation to find if the individual has a military service-connected mental health disability, with authorized medical forms already released upon the date of the motion, asserting the service-connected mental health disability mitigates the circumstances surrounding the crime and was a contributing factor for the offense. Allows the court to not conduct a mental health evaluation if there is no reasonable possibility the individual could have a service-connected mental health disability that contributed to the offense. Directs the president judge of the Court of Common Pleas to assign postconviction relief to either a veterans court or a judge specializing in veterans affairs. Allows an individual to file for a hearing for postconviction relief during a 60-day period beginning on the individual’s notice of mental health evaluation results to determine whether the evidence from the mental health evaluation would have reasonably altered the outcome of a trial. Directs the court to notify the Department of Corrections (DOC) of

the individual's mental health status, if proven to be service-connected, in order to provide the individual with all necessary protections. Directs mental health evaluation findings to not be used as evidence against the individual in any way. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, with Republicans voting in the negative except Reps. Kate Klunk (R-York), Jim Rigby (R-Cambria) and Stephanie Scialabba (R-Butler).

Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D-York), the bill's prime sponsor, said allowing veterans who were diagnosed with military service-connected mental health disabilities after their incarceration to petition the court for post-conviction relief "makes sense."

Rep. Tim Bonner (R-Mercer) said he understood the "wisdom" of the bill. He asked if the bill is intended to allow for the setting aside of a lawful conviction by a jury simply based on the existence of a mental illness. Rep. Hill-Evans stressed that the diagnoses must be service-related and have been missed during initial sentencing. David Vitale, majority executive director, said the bill would simply give cases involving veterans the opportunity for a second look by a judge. Rep. Bonner said he would support the bill if its scope were simply limited to that purpose.

Minority Chairman Rob Kauffman (R-Franklin) questioned the constitutionality of the bill, noting a recent Supreme Court ruling stating that the General Assembly cannot direct courts to open final judgments. Rep. Hill-Evans noted that the issue was brought to her attention by a judge.

Rep. Scialabba inquired about the time frame between the original sentencing and the subsequent diagnosis. Vitale cited the bill, which states that an inmate would have 60 days to file a petition. Rep. Scialabba said she believed the language of the bill needed refining.

[HB 490](#) – (PN 479) Amends Titles 2 (Administrative Law and Procedure) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in depositions and witnesses, further providing for confidential communications to news reporters; and making editorial changes. Permits reporters to have a qualified privilege to refuse to disclose nonconfidential sources and materials. Provides the privilege may only be overcome by court order. Provides limitations. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Rep. Ben Waxman (D-Philadelphia), the bill's prime sponsor, said the bill intends to protect journalists from having to give up confidential sources, with certain exceptions.

Rep. Robert Leadbetter (R-Columbia) asked if the bill considered journalists who operate on social media. Rep. Waxman said Rep. Leadbetter raised an important point and deferred to the executive director. Vitale said he believed the bill could cover all media sources in its current form but suggested that the bill could use some clarity. Rep. Leadbetter stressed the importance of including new and alternative forms of media in the bill. Rep. Waxman expressed openness to amending the bill.

Rep. Bonner inquired about the importance of protecting non-confidential sources and materials. Rep. Waxman said it was about protecting the rights surrounding the First Amendment. Rep. Bonner asked what the bill would change. Rep. Waxman said the bill is aimed at protecting certain materials used specifically by journalists. Rep. Bonner said he looked forward to learning more about the bill.

Chairman Kauffman said the bill needed to be fine-tuned.

[HB 886](#) – (PN 927) Amends Title 61 (Prisons and Parole), in general administration relating to correctional institutions, providing for prerelease briefings on veterans' benefits. Requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to conduct a prehearing briefing for incarcerated veterans regarding benefit information prior to their release. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Joe Webster (D-Montgomery), the bill's prime sponsor, noted that roughly 8% of Pennsylvania's prison population is comprised of veterans. He stressed the importance of newly released veterans understanding the benefit system.

Rep. Chris Pielli (D-Chester), speaking on his experience as a veteran and a correctional officer, voiced his support for the bill.

[HB 1385](#) – (PN 1890) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in juvenile matters, further providing for definitions and for disposition of delinquent child. Redefines "child" to include career and technical education. Further redefines and details "delinquent act." Asserts the term "delinquent act" does not include a summary offense or the failure of a child to comply with a lawful sentence imposed for a summary offense. Makes repeals. Defines "delinquent child" and "material loss." Establishes general rules for the disposition of a delinquent child. Provides probation limitation for a misdemeanor and a felony. Limits restitution payments to not exceed \$10 and the Crime Victims Services and Compensation Fund not to exceed \$25. Asserts that no restitution may be forgiven without providing a victim with timely notice of a hearing on the forgiveness of restitution and without the court

issuing findings on the record. Prohibits a child from being removed from the child's home, outlining exceptions. Further prohibits a court from removing a child from the home and lists reasons. Stipulates that a child removed from the child's home may not be placed out of state unless medically needed services recommended by assessment are not available in the commonwealth. Limits the extension of placement. Provides applicability for the required statement of reasons for a disposition. Requires addressing the child's educational stability. Prohibits a child employed by the placement from being paid less than the minimum wage. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as amended**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

[A02055](#), by Briggs, leaves only provisions relating to restitution and the elimination of summary offenses from juvenile court jurisdiction and the elimination of fines, fees and costs. The amendment was **adopted**, with Rep. Stephanie Borowicz (R-Clinton) voting in the negative.

Rep. Emily Kinkead (D-Allegheny), the bill's prime sponsor, said the bill seeks to eliminate fines and fees for most juvenile offenders. She said many juveniles are staying in the justice system for longer than necessary because they are unable to afford to pay fines and fees. She noted that the Juvenile Justice Commission recommended the changes made by the bill.

Chairman Kauffman inquired about the definition of "actual victim" in the bill. Vitale said that phrasing is a reflection of the bill's intent to only have restitution imposed in cases where an individual suffers material loss. Chairman Kauffman said the term "actual victim" made his skin crawl. He argued that many victims would not fall under that definition. He expressed concerns that the bill prioritizes offenders over victims.

Rep. Leadbetter asked about the elimination of fines and fees. Rep. Kinkead reiterated that many juveniles are unable to pay fines and fees, leaving the responsibility to their parents. Rep. Leadbetter argued that certain fines and fees are effective deterrents against bad behavior.

Rep. Joseph Hohenstein (D-Philadelphia) asked about the inclusion of victim representatives of the Juvenile Justice Commission. Rep. Kinkead said there is victim representation, but she does not know the exact makeup of the commission. Rep. Hohenstein said the bill has already vetted concerns from victim groups. He stressed the importance of a justice system that focuses on rehabilitation.

Rep. Bonner expressed openness to eliminating fines but suggested retaining certain jurisdictions that would allow police to charge lesser-level crimes. Rep. Kinkead said she saw the potential for unintended consequences, expressing her openness to amending the bill.

[HB 1432](#) – (PN 1668) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in protection from abuse, further providing for definitions. Redefines "abuse" to include causing substantial emotional distress to the person. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, with Rep. Borowicz voting in the negative.

Rep. Sheryl DeLozier (R-Cumberland), the bill's prime sponsor, said the bill updates the definition of stalking to align it with the Pennsylvania stalking statute. She discussed her companion bill, [HB 1419](#), which aims to further assist victims.

[HB 1476](#) – (PN 2267) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in protection of victims of sexual violence or intimidation, further providing for definitions. Removes the phrase "against a person under 18 years of age" from the definition of "intimidation." Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, with Rep. Borowicz voting in the negative.

[HB 1479](#) – (PN 2270) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in protection from abuse, further providing for definitions and for relief. Defines "post," "social media platform" and "user." Permits a court to issue any protection order or consent agreement that includes prohibiting the defendant from accessing or utilizing social media platforms or prohibiting the defendant from posting on social media platforms. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as amended**, with Rep. Borowicz voting in the negative.

[A02092](#), by Kauffman, specifies the applicability of the social media restriction and enables judges in protection from sexual violence and protection from intimidation matters to impose the same social media restrictions in those orders as well. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Borowicz said she was voting against certain bills due to a lack of due process.

[HB 1671](#) – (PN 2040) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in sentencing, further providing for sentencing generally and providing for restorative justice. Permits a court to sentence a defendant to undergo restorative justice exclusively if the court determines that it is appropriate. Permits a court to sentence a defendant to undergo restorative justice in addition to another sentence. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **passed over**.

[HB 1891](#) – (PN 2356) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in firearms and other dangerous articles, further providing for sale or transfer of firearms. Revises provisions for the duty of sellers to require all licensed firearm importers, manufacturers and dealers to submit their records of sale to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) electronically, rather than by mail, unless there is a reported electronic failure or the seller conducts 20 or fewer firearm transactions a year. Directs PSP to conduct an annual review of the transactions of each licensed importer, licensed manufacturer and licensed dealer over the past calendar year to determine whether the licensed importer, manufacturer or dealer is exempted from the use of an electronic application/record of sale, beginning in 2027. Requires PSP to notify each licensed importer, manufacturer and dealer of an exemption to the use of an electronic application/record of sale no later than April 1 of each year. Specifies that nothing shall be construed to prohibit a licensed importer, manufacturer or dealer from choosing to use an electronic application/record of sale. Effective April 1, 2026, or immediately, whichever is later. The bill was **reported as amended**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

[A02106](#), by Briggs, asserts that the act will not be construed to allow any government agency to create, maintain or operate a registry of firearm ownership within the commonwealth. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Anthony Bellmon (D-Philadelphia), the bill's prime sponsor, said the bill updates the electronic handgun sales system required by law. He added that the goal is to make the process more efficient for gun dealers and law enforcement.

Rep. Leadbetter expressed concerns about the use of technology in the bill. He said he would be willing to work on an amendment.

Rep. Bonner said he believed in the option to use paper documents.

Chairman Kauffman voiced his opposition to the bill, citing the public's distrust of the government.

Chairman Tim Briggs (D-Montgomery) expressed his trust in law enforcement. He noted that there is a large police backlog that is currently being held up due to paperwork.

[HB 1908](#) – (PN 2386) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in protection from abuse, further providing for arrest for violation of order and for contempt for violation of order or agreement. Directs court officials to forward notice of the arrest for indirect criminal contempt to the National Crime Information Center and the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network within 24 hours upon delivery of the defendant to the court. Provides sentencing for a subsequent conviction for contempt. Dictates that defendants have the right to a jury trial on a charge of indirect criminal contempt for subsequent violations. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Rep. Nate Davidson (D-Dauphin), the bill's prime sponsor, said he was inspired to introduce the bill after a visit to a local domestic violence shelter. He noted he normally opposes increases in sentences and restrictions but felt the need to make an exception.

Rep. Kinkead said the bill provides judges with tools to deal with certain offenders.

[HB 1909](#) – (PN 2387) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in sentencing, providing for sentencing for offenses involving protection from abuse violations. Dictates that in addition to any minimum term of imprisonment authorized or established by law, an individual who commits a criminal offense during the performance of a violation of an offense under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6114 (relating to contempt for violation of order or agreement) will have the criminal offense graded one degree higher up to and including a felony of the third degree. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as amended**, with Republicans voting in the negative except Reps. Klunk, Leadbetter and Scialabba.

[A02114](#), by Briggs, guts and replaces the bill; and amends 10 provisions of Title 18 to institute grading enhancements for misdemeanor offenses that are likely to co-occur with PFA violations. The amendment was **adopted**, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Rep. Davidson, the bill's prime sponsor, said the bill aims to punish repeat offenders of domestic violence and domestic abuse.

[HB 1935](#) – (PN 2434) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in assault, further providing for the offense of terroristic threats. Allows the court to order restitution in the amount equal to the cost of supplies, equipment and materials, including the salary, overtime pay or other wages of affected employees and first responders. Requires the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to provide a sentencing enhancement for courts to consider in cases of terroristic threats against a school entity or an institute of higher education. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days. The bill was **reported as committed**, with Rep. Borowicz voting in the negative.

Rep. Bonner, a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, praised the bill for its effectiveness.

Chairman Briggs, the bill's prime sponsor, noted that many cases of threats against a school entity are occurring on college campuses.

Rep. Leadbetter asked if the bill extended to the physical facilities of public cyber charter schools. Chairman Briggs confirmed that it would. Rep. Leadbetter noted that the bill would also extend to private and religious schools.

[SB 418](#) – (PN 352) Amends Titles 16 (Counties) and 53 (Municipalities Generally), in district attorney, assistants and detectives, further providing for filling of vacancies; in general provisions relating to home rule and optional plan government, further providing for limitation on municipal powers; and, in general provisions common to optional plans, further providing for manner of filling vacancies in office. Replaces language under filling vacancies to include that the first assistant district attorney to fill the office for the balance of the unexpired term. Removes the county district attorney from subsection (b) regarding other officers. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HR 58](#) – (PN 503) Resolution urging the U.S. Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that provides that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude may be imposed as a punishment for a crime. The resolution was **reported as committed**, with Republicans voting in the negative except Rep. Bonner.

Chairman Kauffman said HB 1385 “authorized slavery” in the form of community service.

Rep. Leadbetter urged the committee to take a strong stance against slavery when it comes time to speak out against “slave labor in China.”

Rep. Malcolm Kenyetta (D-Philadelphia) criticized the committee for a lack of a cohesive vote against “the most heinous atrocity in human history.”

Chairman Kauffman said that no one on the committee was promoting slavery. “We’re just trying to figure out what we’re actually trying to solve here,” he said.

Rep. Kinkead said it was a “mistake” for the 13th Amendment to allow for incarcerated people to be enslaved. She said she saw nothing wrong with encouraging leaders to take a stance against that aspect of the amendment.

[HR 240](#) – (PN 2290) Resolution recognizing the month of January 2026 as “Stalking Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.



Bullet.in.Points

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE: PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

The Governor’s Office proclaimed a general disaster emergency relating to the cessation of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Additional information is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: RECENT ACTIONS DURING THE 2025 REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly released a summary of actions taken during the 2025 Regular Session. Additional information is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO2852 - School District Loan Reimbursement During Budget Impasses

Sponsor

Rep. Gina H. Curry (D)

Summary

Requires the commonwealth to reimburse public school districts for interest payments and fees incurred due to the General Assembly's failure to pass a timely budget for fiscal year 2025-26.

Intro Date

11/07/2025

Last Action

11/10/2025 H - Introduced HB2025

HCO2864 - Volunteer Investment in Responder's Education (VIRE) Act

Sponsor

Rep. Gary W. Day (R)

Summary

Aims to introduce the Volunteer Investment in Responder's Education (VIRE) Act which aims to provide higher education tuition reduction for volunteer firefighters at our Community Colleges and PASSHE schools.

Intro Date

11/10/2025

Last Action

11/10/2025 H - Cosponsor memo filed

Basic Ed Bill Actions

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

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

10/07/2025 H - Discussed during public hearing with House Education - House Agriculture and Rural Affairs

10/07/2025 H - Discussed during public hearing with the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee - House Education

11/12/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 11/17/2025, 11:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Agriculture and Rural Affairs), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

HB2025 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, providing for reimbursements for borrowing costs during budget impasse; and establishing the School District Impasse Recovery Fund.

Sponsor

Rep. Gina H. Curry (D)

Summary

(PN 2584) Amends the Public School Code, in reimbursements by commonwealth and between school districts, providing for reimbursements for borrowing costs during budget impasse; and establishing the School District Impasse Recovery Fund. Elaborates on the applicability of the Impasse Recovery Fund. Explains what the money in the fund may and may not be used for. Requires the department to reimburse school entities for all eligible expenses. Asserts that the total amount of reimbursement cannot exceed the documented eligible expenses submitted by the school entity. Mandates the department to develop an application for reimbursement. Lists the required contents of the application. Provides a 45-day period for the submission of the application following the impasse period. Provides dates for review. Lists the required aggregated data to be reported by the department. Provides definitions. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

11/10/2025

Actions

11/10/2025 H - Introduced

11/12/2025 H - Referred to - House Appropriations

HR368 - A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a comprehensive study of changes in commercial property values in this Commonwealth, assess the fiscal impact on local governments and school districts and make recommendations.

Sponsor

Rep. Joe Webster (D)

Summary

(PN 2587) Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct a comprehensive study of changes in commercial property values in this commonwealth, assess the fiscal impact on local governments and school districts and make recommendations. Outlines what the study must do. Directs LBFC to transmit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and post the report on LBFC's website, within one year after the adoption of this resolution.

Intro Date

11/07/2025

Actions

11/07/2025 H - Introduced

11/12/2025 H - Referred to - House Local Government

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

Sponsor

Sen. Judy Ward (R)

Summary

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

Intro Date

04/28/2025

Actions

06/23/2025 S - Laid on the table

06/23/2025 S - Removed from table

09/10/2025 S - Laid on the table

09/10/2025 S - Removed from table

11/12/2025 S - Laid on the table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9)

SB127 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, repealing provisions relating to Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction and providing for Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction required.

Sponsor

Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)

Summary

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

Intro Date

01/22/2025

Actions

06/23/2025 S - Laid on the table

06/23/2025 S - Removed from table

09/10/2025 S - Laid on the table

09/10/2025 S - Removed from table

11/12/2025 S - Laid on the table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9)

SB160 - An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Legislative Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Sponsor

Sen. Scott Martin (R)

Summary

(PN 1309) The General Appropriation Act of 2025 provides appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; provides appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; provides for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; and provides for the additional appropriation of federal and state funds to the Executive and Legislative Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Outlines appropriations for fiscal year 2025-2026. Species that any money that has been expended under temporary expenditure symbols approved by the Office of the Budget and paid after June 30, 2025, through the date of enactment of this act, shall be deducted from the corresponding appropriation of this act. Applies this act retroactively to July 1, 2025. Effective immediately. (Prior PN: 1258, 529, 1225)

Intro Date

04/03/2025

Actions

11/12/2025 S - Meeting Scheduled - 11/12/2025, 12:30 PM - Voting Meeting (Senate Rules and Executive Nominations), Rules Committee Conference Room

11/12/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 11/12/2025 - Voting Meeting (House Rules), Room 140, Main Capitol

11/12/2025 H - Voted favorably from committee on concurrence, as amended - House Rules

11/12/2025 H - Re-reported on concurrence, as amended - House Rules

11/12/2025 H - Laid out for discussion

SB315 (Chapter 47) - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in career and technical education, further providing for career and technical education equipment grants.

Sponsor

Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R)

Summary

(PN 1310) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for Special Education Funding Commission and for minimum number of days or hours; in duties and powers of boards of school directors, providing for admission fees for school-sponsored activities; in intermediate units, further providing for staff; in certification of teachers, further providing for certificates qualifying persons to teach and for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of department, providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and for State certificate fee reduction, further providing for standard employment application, for career and technical instructional certificate, for program of continuing professional and paraprofessional education and for postbaccalaureate certification, providing for assessment of basic skills, further providing for professional educator discipline fee and providing for career and technical administrative director certification flexibility; in pupils and attendance, further providing for attendance policy at charter, regional charter and cyber charter schools, for procedure when child is truant, for procedure by school when child habitually truant, for procedure upon filing of citation, for penalties for violating compulsory school attendance requirements and for study of truancy procedure, providing for department supports to prevent truancy and further providing for reports to Superintendent of Public Instruction and for exceptional children and education and training; in student supports, further providing for definitions; in school safety and security, further providing for definitions, for School Safety and Security Committee, for school safety and security assessment providers, for School Safety and Security Grant Program, for school safety and security coordinator and for school safety and security training, providing for school safety and mental health grants for 2025-2026 school year and further providing for reporting and memorandum of understanding; in school security, further providing for training, for school resource officers, for school security guards and for duties of commission; in Safe2Say Program, further providing for intent, for definitions, for Safe2Say Program and for annual report; in threat assessment, further providing for definitions, for threat assessment teams and for threat assessment guidelines, training and information materials; in Drug and Alcohol Recovery High School Program, further providing for scope of program and selection of students and for enrollment of students; in evidence-based reading instruction, further providing for definitions and providing for school entity duties related to evidence-based reading instruction, for school entity duties related to reading screening, for reading deficiency identification and parental notification, for reading intervention plans, for grant program, for funding, for reporting, for accountability and for construction; in high schools, further providing for attendance in other districts and providing for Free Application for Federal Student Aid; in interscholastic athletics accountability, further providing for council recommendations and standards; in charter schools, further providing for funding for cyber charter schools, for enrollment and notification and for enrollee wellness checks; in career and technical education, further providing for capital reserve fund for approved purchases of equipment and facility maintenance, for career and technical education equipment grants, for Cosmetology Training through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program and for Barber Training through Career and Technical Center Pilot Program; providing for Nursing Shortage Assistance Program; in community colleges, further providing for financial program and reimbursement of payments; in the State System of Higher Education, further providing for definitions and for Grow Pennsylvania Merit Scholarship Program; in educational tax credits, further providing for limitations; in higher education accountability and transparency, further providing for exit counseling; in miscellaneous provisions relating to institutions of higher education, repealing provisions relating to State-related university performance-based funding model, further providing for prohibition on scholarship displacement at public institutions of higher education and providing for cooperation and for State scholarship renewals; in institutions of higher education, further providing for powers and duties of State Board of Higher Education, for definitions, for Performance-based Funding Council and for public institution of higher education reporting, providing for state-related University Performance Fund, for performance-based funding formula and for public accountability and further providing for agency duties, for grant priority and for report; in Ready-to-Succeed Scholarship, further providing for agency; in funding for public libraries, providing for State aid for fiscal year 2025-2026; in reimbursements by commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for student-weighted basic education funding beginning with 2023-2024 school year, for extraordinary special education program expenses, for assistance to school districts declared to be in financial recovery status or identified for financial watch status and for Ready-to-Learn Block Grant; in construction and renovation of buildings by school entities, further providing for applicability; abrogating regulations; and making an editorial change. Removes the requirement for a basic skills assessment to enter educator preparation programs or obtain certain teaching certificates. Specifies how schools must report special education costs, defining eligible and ineligible expenditures. Creates a new School Safety and Mental Health Grant Program for the 2025-2026 school year, allocating \$100 million for general grants and \$20.7 million for targeted safety grants. Expands the Recovery High School Program, raising the enrollment cap from 20 to 35 students, resulting in an estimated \$216,900 increase in annual costs to the Department of Education. Revises the cyber charter funding formula. Updates career and technical education equipment grants to require data to be current and corrected if found inaccurate. Establishes a Performance-Based Funding Council and performance framework for higher education, linking future appropriations to workforce outcomes. Reorganizes and redistributes existing education funds, expands certain programs and implements funding reforms.

Abrogates any regulation inconsistent with the addition of section 1221 of the act, the regulations at 22 Pa. Code Ch. 49 to the extent of any inconsistency with this act and the regulations at 22 Pa. Code § 49.85(c) and (d) insofar as they are inconsistent with this act. Outlines what provisions apply retroactively to July 1, 2025. The addition of section 1203.1, the amendment of section 1216.1 (d), the addition of section 1333 (a) (2.1) and (2.2) and (c.1) and the addition of section 1333.3(l) are effective in 30 days. The amendment or addition of section 1205.2(k) introductory paragraph, (2) and (2.2) and (k.2), the amendment or addition of section 1327.2(a) and (a.1), the addition of section 1333.2(i), the addition of section 1333.3(j), the amendment or addition of section 1303-d heading, (a), (c)(11), (12) and (13), (d) and (e) and the amendment or addition of section 1748-a(a), (a.1), (b), (d) and (e) are effective in 60 days. The amendment of section 1327.2(c), the addition of section 1333.1(d.1), the addition of section 1333.5 and the amendment of section 1339 are effective Aug. 1, 2026. The remainder of this act is effective immediately.

Intro Date

02/26/2025

Actions

11/12/2025 S - Laid out for discussion

11/12/2025 S - Amended on Concurrence

11/12/2025 S - Senate concurred in House amendments, as amended by the Senate

11/12/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 11/12/2025, 12:00 PM - Voting Meeting (Second Meeting) (House Rules), Room 140, Main Capitol

11/12/2025 H - Referred to - House Rules

Higher Ed Bill Actions

HB1935 - An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for the offense of terroristic threats.

Sponsor

Rep. Tim Briggs (D)

Summary

(PN 2434) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in assault, further providing for the offense of terroristic threats. Allows the court to order restitution in the amount equal to the cost of supplies, equipment and materials, including the salary, overtime pay or other wages of affected employees and first responders. Requires the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to provide a sentencing enhancement for courts to consider in cases of terroristic threats against a school entity or an institute of higher education. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

10/08/2025

Actions

10/08/2025 H - Introduced

10/08/2025 H - Referred to - House Judiciary

11/06/2025 H - Meeting Scheduled - 11/12/2025, 1:00 PM - Voting Meeting (House Judiciary), Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

11/12/2025 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Judiciary

Upcoming Events

MONDAY – 11/17/2025

9:30 AM, [House Communications & Technology](#)

Public Hearing, Room 515, Irvis Office Building

Public hearing on [HB 634](#).

10:00 AM, [House Education](#) and [House Health](#)

Joint Informational Meeting, Room 60, East Wing

Joint informational meeting on cell phones in schools.

11:30 AM, [House Agriculture & Rural Affairs](#)

Voting Meeting, Room 515, Irvis Office Building

To consider: [HB 1741](#), [HB 1768](#), [HB 2034](#) and [HR 327](#)

3:00 PM, Higher Ed Labor United Press Conference

Press Conference, Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg

TUESDAY – 11/18/2025

9:30 AM, [House Children & Youth](#)

Voting Meeting, Room 523, Irvis Office Building

To consider: [HB 144](#), [HB 1873](#), [HB 1936](#) and [HR 367](#)

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

Public Hearing, Room 523, Irvis Office Building

Public hearing on [HB 133](#).

In the News

[11/07/2025 - Governor Signs Senator Tartaglione's Bipartisan School Safety Notification Bill into Law](#)

[11/07/2025 - Pennsylvania Leads the Nation in Middle School Career Exploration, Ranks Highest in National Study](#)

[11/07/2025 - Keep PA Beautiful: Litter Hawk Youth Award Celebrates America250: 2026 Application Now Open for Grades K-6](#)

[11/12/2025 - Rowe Votes 'Yes' to Major Republican Policy Victories in State Budget](#)

[11/12/2025 - STATEMENT on Passage of PA's 2025-26 State Budget from Pennsylvania Policy Center](#)

[11/12/2025 - Kutz: New State Budget Delivers for Cumberland County, Strengthens Economy, Invests in Education and Families, and Keeps Pennsylvania Competitive](#)

[11/12/2025 - Pugh: This is What Compromise Looks Like: Jobs, Investment and Growth for Pennsylvania](#)

[11/12/2025 - Fritz: Northeast Republican Delegation: State Budget Impasse Nears End, Delivering Key Wins for Taxpayers, Businesses and Energy Independence](#)

[11/12/2025 - Stefano Reacts to Bipartisan, Pro-Growth Budget Bill](#)

[11/12/2025 - State Budget Passes: Senator Marty Flynn Celebrates Passage of Historic Budget including Major Investments in Education and Support for Working Families](#)

[11/12/2025 - Senate Republican Leaders Highlight Pro-Growth Budget Passed by Senate](#)

[11/12/2025 - Rivera hails bipartisan budget's historic investment in public education](#)

[11/12/2025 - Smith-Wade-El praises bipartisan budget's historic investment in public education](#)

[11/12/2025 - Senator Malone Applauds Passage of the 2025-2026 Pennsylvania Budget](#)

[11/12/2025 - Senator Tartaglione's Statement on Passage of the 2025-26 Pennsylvania Budget](#)

[11/12/2025 - Delozier Votes 'Yes' on Sustainable Budget Compromise](#)

[11/12/2025 - 2025-26 State Budget Ends RGGI Participation, But Spends Remaining Fund Balance, Gleim Says](#)

[11/12/2025 - Senator Cappelletti Responds to PA Senate's Long Overdue Budget Passage](#)

[11/12/2025 - Baker: Senate Republicans Send Bipartisan, Pro-Growth Budget Bill to Governor's Desk](#)

[11/12/2025 - Topper: State Budget Puts Pennsylvania in a Winning Position](#)

[11/12/2025 - D'Orsie Comments on Passage of 2025-26 State Budget](#)

[11/12/2025 - White: 2025-26 State Budget Makes Important Advances in Energy Policy, School Choice](#)

[11/12/2025 - Matzie votes 'yes' on new budget, citing public education, jobs, no new taxes](#)

[11/12/2025 - Owlett, Pickett: Energy, Education, Economy Get Boost from Final 2025-26 PA Budget](#)

[11/12/2025 - Brown: Budget Protects Taxpayers, Strengthens Vital Programs, Gets Pennsylvania Back on Track](#)

[11/12/2025 - Senator Culver Supports Bipartisan, Pro-Growth Budget Focused on Working Families and Fiscal Responsibility](#)

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