

## March 13 – 19, 2026

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### SESSION STATUS

At 12:05 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026, the House met briefly in non-voting session and now stands adjourned until Monday, March 23, 2026, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 12:06 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2026, the Senate recessed until Monday, March 23, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

### UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

#### House

March 23-25  
April 13-15, 27-29  
May 4-6  
June 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-30  
Sept. 28-30  
Oct. 5-7, 19-21  
Nov. 9, 10

#### Senate

March 23-25  
April 20-22  
May 4-6  
June 1-3, 8-10, 22-26, 29-30

*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](#) users. For more information, contact [sales@mypls.com](mailto:sales@mypls.com).*

## Press Conferences

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

### PSFCA HOLDS BIG 33 CAPTIOL CELEBRATION

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | March 16, 2026

The Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Association (PSFCA) celebrated the 69th PSFCA Big 33 Football Classic at a press conference in the Main Capitol Rotunda today.

Nancy Ryan, former radio host, BOB 94.9, said the event will be held on Sunday, May 24, at Cumberland Valley High School's Chapman Field at 6:30 p.m. She discussed the game's history as a battle between the best high school football players in Pennsylvania and Maryland. "We can still proudly say there has never been a Super Bowl without a Big 33 participant on the roster," she said. She noted that the event also included cheerleaders, alums, youth sports, veterans and the Big 33 Buddy Program, pairing individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with Big 33 athletes.

Sen. Dawn Keefer (R-York) said she was glad to see Big 33 return to southcentral Pennsylvania. She added that the event was about much more than football, highlighting the Buddy Program and other community initiatives tied to Big 33. She said many players will stay with host families during the event, which many alumni claim to be the most memorable part of the event. She referred to the event as "the Super Bowl of high school football," praising the hard work of the student athletes.

Rep. Joseph D'Orise (R-York) said high school football is "so quintessentially Pennsylvania," highlighting the sport's importance to the commonwealth's culture. "It isn't just a tradition, it's a hallmark of our history," he said. "Pennsylvania is proud to have you represent us."

Garry Cathell, executive director, Big 33 and PSFCA, introduced the Big 33 Pennsylvania [roster and coaching staff](#), including head coach Don Holl from Gateway High School. He also introduced the Big 33 Pennsylvania [cheerleader squad](#).

Sen. Scott Martin (R-Lancaster) praised the parents in the crowd for their dedication to their children's athletic careers, including driving them to practice and helping them through hard times. He also praised the coaches in attendance, acknowledging that high school football coaches often have outside jobs, still finding time to dedicate themselves to youth sports. He claimed that Pennsylvania is the "number one" high school football state in the entire country. He addressed the Big 33 participants, praising them for their hard work and dedication.

Linda Johnston, title sponsor, Renewal by Andersen of Central PA, said the company is proud to be a part of the Big 33 family. She discussed the Big 33 heart screening program, which provides heart screenings to the student athletes. She stressed the importance of the event to Pennsylvania's economy.



## Committee News

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

### House Republican Policy Committee

03/17/2026, 11:30 a.m., Manitowoc Cranes, 1565 Buchanan Trail E, Shady Grove

Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a public hearing on strengthening industrial competitiveness in Pennsylvania.

Mike Reed, vice president and general manager, North America operations, Manitowoc Cranes – Shady Grove, highlighted three key issues affecting domestic manufacturing: foreign competition and fair-trade enforcement, the impact of tariffs and workforce development. He emphasized Manitowoc's role as the last American-owned crane manufacturer and discussed the challenges of unfair foreign competition, particularly from Japanese manufacturers. He recognized the importance of these cranes to build semiconductor plants, data centers, shipyards and other projects critical to economic growth and national security. He highlighted the mixed impact of tariffs on American manufacturers and the importance of fair competition, skilled jobs, infrastructure building and supply chain resilience. He stressed the need for broader support to address the national labor shortage and underscored Manitowoc's commitment to American manufacturing. He stated that the increased competition and growth in warehousing have caused workers to leave their manufacturing jobs. He detailed partnerships with schools to attempt to drive interest and local engagement in these jobs. He stressed that workforce development should be treated with "the same urgency" as trade policy and infrastructure investment. He emphasized the importance of protecting domestic manufacturing and looked forward to future work with the committee on this issue.

Gustavo Casagranti, general manager, Volvo Construction Equipment, discussed his company's commitment to workforce development and the strategic importance of their Pennsylvania location for market growth. He detailed Volvo's investments in training centers and partnerships with educational institutions. He emphasized the need for policies that support infrastructure funding, domestic manufacturing and workforce programs.

Mike Ross, president, Franklin County Area Development Corporation, advocated for Pennsylvania to enhance its competitiveness through regulatory reform, infrastructure investment and workforce alignment with employer needs. He suggested improvements to the permitting process, modernizing Interstate 81 and using freight planning as a strategic tool for economic growth. He stressed the importance of modernizing utilities and broadband, as well as aligning workforce training with employer needs. He detailed how a competitiveness agenda would expand careers in apprenticeships, manufacturing, logistics and healthcare through traditional ways of schooling and career and technical centers (CTCs). He noted the outstanding job the commonwealth has done to retain seniors, but suggested tax, housing and educational incentives to retain young talent in the state. He emphasized the need to improve to compete with surrounding states on this issue.

Chair David Rowe (R-Snyder) emphasized the importance of learning from the successes and failures of neighboring states in terms of energy policy, manufacturing and business development. He highlighted Maryland's regulatory environment as a negative example and asked for insights on what other states are doing well or poorly that Pennsylvania could learn from. Ross discussed the regulatory environment in Maryland and contrasted it with West Virginia's approach to business development. He highlighted West Virginia's success in creating a welcoming environment for businesses. He noted that both West Virginia and Virginia have done a better job with regulatory reform, making them more aggressive in business attraction. Casagranti stated he did not have any data on other states but reinforced the importance of energy as manufacturing jobs continue to evolve, noting rising costs. Reed emphasized the need for early exposure to skilled trades in K-12 education. He highlighted the importance of aligning workforce policy with regional economic realities in Franklin County. He detailed the challenges of fully booked CTC programs and competition for workers, stressing the need for training that supports skilled manufacturing jobs.

Rep. Joseph D'Orsie (R-York) expressed concern over the hurdles businesses face due to state policies. He criticized the gap between government rhetoric about business competitiveness and reality. He asked about major government-induced challenges, aside from workforce development, that threaten operations. Reed discussed the challenges tariffs pose to American manufacturing, noting their mixed effects. He explained that tariffs often increase costs for companies that need to outsource components overseas. He emphasized that this process makes it harder to compete with foreign manufacturers who benefit from lower currency rates. Casagranti emphasized the importance of improving Interstate 81 (I-81) for the safety and mobility of customers and technicians. He recognized the necessity of this improvement for maintaining competitiveness and customer satisfaction within Volvo's manufacturing sector. Ross discussed the poor condition and safety concerns of I-81, suggesting seeking funding from the Department of War for widening the road. He addressed the need for investment in early childhood education and higher education. He discussed the issue of inconsistent regulatory interpretations across regions, which complicates the approval process for civil engineering projects.

Chair Rowe agreed with Ross's points on childcare and the consistency of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) permitting consistency, mentioning another hearing on March 30 in York County to discuss these issues further.

Ross highlighted Franklin County's unique position and growth within south-central Pennsylvania, emphasizing its central location and the development of a regional, multi-state economy. He referenced a missed opportunity with Procter and Gamble (P&G) choosing West Virginia over Pennsylvania for a manufacturing site, underscoring the competitive nature of site location.

Rep. Barbara Gleim (R-Cumberland) discussed the need for infrastructure upgrades on I-81 in Carlisle, due to its significance as the east coast's trucking hub and high accident rates. She emphasized the importance of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) year for potential Department of Defense interest in infrastructure improvements. She highlighted her involvement with the Cumberland Perry vo-tech advisory board and the expansion of employer-led apprenticeship training programs. She criticized the allocation of state education funding, advocated for a focus on workforce development and called for support to eliminate Pennsylvania's unique apprenticeship ratio standards to facilitate more apprenticeships in non-union sectors. She asked about additional regulatory or legislative measures to expedite workforce development for businesses. Ross emphasized the importance of defined timelines and evaluation consistency. He expressed hope that regulations would be reviewed periodically, noting an overreaction to some regulations to address a specific issue. Rep. Gleim suggested that legislative assistance in taxes could help speed up the workforce pipeline into businesses. Ross brought up an example of a regulation that became entrenched in the system because it was never re-evaluated for its necessity.

Rep. Gleim asked whether Reed's company is considered a high-risk employer and if they can only hire individuals who are 18 years old or older. Reed responded that hiring someone who is 17 restricts them from operating essential equipment, such as forklifts or overhead cranes. He suggested that reducing these regulations could facilitate the apprenticeship process by engaging younger individuals. Rep. Gleim proposed that students graduating from high school at 17 and a half should be allowed to start working immediately. Reed agreed with her statement, emphasizing the importance of training and remarking that younger individuals are capable of contributing through apprenticeships and internships.

Rep. Rich Irvin (R-Huntingdon) shared his experiences with Franklin County and discussed the differences in infrastructure and unemployment rates between Huntingdon and Franklin Counties. He asked about ways state laws could be amended to facilitate better cooperation between state and local governments. He was particularly interested in site readiness and workforce housing to enhance job creation. Ross discussed the complexities of Pennsylvania's local government system and suggested that consolidation of authorities could lead to greater efficiencies. He acknowledged the financial stress on boroughs due to development in townships and called for a collaborative approach. Rep. Irvin discussed the importance of integrating workforce development into K-12 education and questioned the allocation of state funding towards higher education versus career and technical education (CTE). Reed advocated for reallocating funds from higher education to skilled trades CTE, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between local businesses and school districts. He noted that most younger people who use higher education will not be looking for manufacturing jobs. Rep. Irvin highlighted the value of trade schools over traditional four-year universities, sharing a personal anecdote about his great uncle's preference for hiring individuals with trade degrees. He emphasized the need to shift societal perceptions to value trade education equally with college degrees. Reed explained that it is easy to tell which younger individuals are on the path to college or trade education based on their interests. He urged the importance of keeping individuals a pathway to go to skilled trades if they choose to. Casagrandi emphasized the need for a balanced approach to education, advocating for modernization across all levels to prepare for fields like robotics and automation. He stressed the importance of investing in both traditional and technical education to support growth and transformation. Ross discussed the potential benefits of three-year college degrees and reducing general education requirements to allow students to focus on their majors. He highlighted a significant teacher shortage and the importance of encouraging students to pursue education as a career. He shared a personal anecdote to illustrate the importance of finding the right job fit.

Rep. Chad Reichard (R-Franklin) shared an example of a student combining traditional education with vocational training, illustrating the financial and career benefits of such a balance. He asked about the future prospects for Manitowoc and Volvo, both individually and collaboratively. Reed emphasized the importance of support in an anti-dumping case for the future of their facility, aiming to remain the last American-owned crane manufacturer. He highlighted the need for fair trade and assistance with specific challenges to ensure the facility's continuation. Casagrandi described a positive outlook for the future, noting a \$40 million investment in Shippensburg for new product lines. He highlighted the importance of workforce development and the I-81 corridor for competitive support and company expansion. Reed detailed the interconnectedness of Manitowoc's success with its domestic suppliers, suggesting that the future of both Manitowoc and Volvo, as well as their suppliers, should be considered in industry discussions.

Rep. Reichard expressed appreciation for local businesses and the positive impact of manufacturers in Franklin County and Pennsylvania. He thanked the speakers for their testimonies and expressed optimism about the future of solving this issue.

Chair Rowe discussed the challenges of regulatory and permitting inconsistencies, citing a 2022 incident where a steel mill opened

in Arkansas due to faster permitting compared to Pennsylvania. He announced plans to draft a letter addressing global competitive issues and anti-dumping, encouraging other elected officials to sign it. He announced a continuation of the conversation on developing skilled trades in Lawrence County with Rep. Marla Brown (R-Lawrence) on Thursday.

*Disclaimer: Opening remarks may have been missed due to technical difficulties with the livestream.*



### **Legislative Budget & Finance Committee**

*03/18/2026, 9:00 a.m., Room 8E-B, East Wing*

Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to release two reports entitled Barriers to Career and Technical Education (CTE) ([HR 481 of 2024](#)) and Adequacy of Fees Charged for the Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) (Act 17 of 1995).

[HR 481](#) - (PN 3356) Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct a study and make recommendations on non-academic barriers students face getting accepted into career and technical education programs and identifying the barriers. The report was unanimously **released** to the public.

Anne Witkonis, project specialist, LBFC, presented the findings from the study on barriers to CTE in Pennsylvania, emphasizing the importance of CTE in meeting workforce demands. She said that the study identified challenges such as student waitlists, physical capacity limitations, facility conditions and instructor shortages. Witkonis reported a 150.6% increase in waitlisted students from fiscal year (FY) 2019-2020 to FY 2024-2025 and recommended that the Department of Education (PDE) require CTE providers to report waitlist data. She suggested a grant program for CTE facility expansion and solutions for instructor shortages, including covering certification costs and establishing a permanent certification option for in-demand careers. Witkonis noted the need for tiered funding based on in-demand career clusters and discussed approaches in other states to address CTE instructor shortages.

Sen. Jarrett Coleman (R-Lehigh) asked about necessary actions to fully unlock the potential of CTE programs in Pennsylvania, mentioning constituent concerns about limited availability and seeking insights on enhancing the CTE system's capacity and effectiveness. Witkonis commented on the challenges faced by CTE facilities in Pennsylvania, including issues of physical capacity and inadequate facilities contributing to growing waitlists for CTE programs. Judd R. Pittman, director, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, PDE, outlined a multi-pronged approach to unlock the full potential of CTE, emphasizing the need for creativity, leveraging industry partnerships, encouraging school districts to open programs without duplication and focusing on infrastructure-suited programs. He stressed the importance of safety and accessibility in CTE labs and the recognition of graduates' competencies by employers, concluding that a collective conversation and utilizing all available tools are essential for enhancing CTE's impact. Sen. Coleman sought some clarification, mentioning feedback from constituents about the stigma of being sent to CTE centers and suggesting that offering courses at sending schools could help. Pittman outlined a multi-faceted approach to improve CTE, including satellite sites, flexible assessments and integrating theory courses in local districts. He emphasized the need to reduce stigma around CTE, highlighting its benefits like college credits and degrees, and suggested collaboration with community colleges and innovative delivery models to expand capacity. Sen. Coleman expressed enthusiasm for Pittman's comprehensive approach to CTE, particularly the potential for increased exposure through satellite provision. He highlighted the benefits of such exposure, including the possibility of students becoming future small business owners, employers, or educators and mentioned plans to discuss the approach further with other members. Pittman emphasized the importance of connecting middle school CTE programs to potential careers, like linking robotics competitions to careers in advanced manufacturing, to inspire more students to engage with CTE.

Chair Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York) said she appreciated Pittman's passion and discussed the challenge in York County where demand for CTE exceeds available seats. She mentioned a successful partnership that led to an apprenticeship program in automotive repair. She highlighted the lengthy approval process for such programs by the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) and asked about efforts to facilitate the development of innovative programs. Pittman described collaborative efforts to streamline the apprenticeship application process, including aligning course scope and sequence with technical instructions to facilitate quicker approval for school districts and partners. He emphasized the importance of clear, consistent language across PDE and L&I to improve the process. Chair Phillips-Hill emphasized the need for innovative thinking to develop career opportunities for students, especially in rural areas, and stressed the need for the educational process to be nimble to meet the evolving needs of students

and employers. She advocated for a more efficient process to support students' future success and employers' needs for skilled labor.

Rep. Donna Scheuren (R-Montgomery) asked if the 97% of districts reporting their facilities were at capacity also indicated if they were landlocked, inquiring about the specifics of the question in the report regarding facility capacity and land availability. Witkonis mentioned the potential for expansion for a couple with land if they had funding. Rep. Scheuren expressed curiosity about whether the issue of being landlocked was present in other parts of the commonwealth and mentioned that her district is.

Rep. Tim Twardzik (R-Schuylkill) highlighted the usefulness of a report in understanding the growth and success of CTE in his area and mentioned his plan to discuss the report further at an open house.

Act 17 of 1995 - Adequacy of Fees Charged for PICS. The report was unanimously **released** to the public.

Matthew Thomas, senior analyst, LBFC, detailed the fee structure, a significant omission of electronic payment revenues amounting to nearly \$14.5 million since FY 2013-2014 and recommended a one-time fee increase to \$17.50 with provisions for inflation adjustments. He said the report also included operational statistics for 2024, noting over 802,000 firearm sales and transfers and the capture of 109 individuals with active warrants through PICS background checks.

Chair Phillips-Hill thanked Thomas for his report. She noted the Pennsylvania State Police's (PSP) appreciation for LBFC's work and PSP acknowledging issues to be followed up with during their appropriations hearings.



## **Bullet.in.Points**

### **PDE: PROPOSED GRANT APPLICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER PART B OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026**

The Department of Education issued comments on the following regulation: the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-B). Comments will be accepted until May 19, 2026, and should be directed to Samantha Pudloski or Lisa Hauswirth, Bureau of Special Education, Department of Education, 607 South Drive, 3rd Floor-East Wing, Harrisburg, PA 17120, [RA-EDIDEABgrant@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EDIDEABgrant@pa.gov).

The department will also provide an opportunity for individuals to present verbal public comment on April 29, 2026, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Interested persons should contact Aaron loos at (717) 772-3500 or [aioos@pa.gov](mailto:aioos@pa.gov) no later than April 22, 2026. Additional information is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

## **Cosponsor Memos**

### **HCO3247 - Improving Pennsylvania's Civics Education**

#### **Sponsor**

Rep. Tim Brennan (D)

#### **Summary**

Provides support for civic education in schools.

#### **Intro Date**

03/13/2026

**Last Action**

03/13/2026 H - Cosponsor memo filed

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**HCO3251 - Ensuring Our Kids Aren't Learning or Playing Near Smoke Shops****Sponsor**

Rep. Ben Waxman (D)

**Summary**

Prohibits new smoke shop licensees to open a location within 500 feet of a daycare, K-12 school, youth center or recreational space in Pennsylvania. Prohibits a new smoke shop from opening within 500 feet of another smoke shop.

**Intro Date**

03/16/2026

**Last Action**

03/16/2026 H - Introduced HB2295

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**HCO3256 - Providing support for small businesses that employ interns****Sponsor**

Rep. Aaron Bernstine (R)

**Summary**

Grants tax credits to small businesses who hire paid interns.

**Intro Date**

03/17/2026

**Last Action**

03/17/2026 H - Cosponsor memo filed

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**SCO1647 - Recognizing April 4, 2026, as "School Librarian Day" in Pennsylvania****Sponsor**

Sen. James Andrew Malone (D)

**Summary**

Resolution recognizing April 4, 2026, as "School Librarian Day" in Pennsylvania.

**Intro Date**

03/13/2026

**Last Action**

03/13/2026 S - Cosponsor memo filed

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**SCO1658 - Protecting Students and Staff of Higher Education****Sponsor**

Sen. Michele Brooks (R)

**Summary**

Prohibits the use of student tuition, student fees, state grants or appropriations from the commonwealth to compensate college athletes.

**Intro Date**

03/19/2026

**Last Action**

03/19/2026 S - Cosponsor memo filed

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**SCO1661 - Updating Pennsylvania's Marriage and Family Therapist Practice Law****Sponsor**

Sen. David G. Argall (R)

**Summary**

Updates Pennsylvania's Marriage and Family Therapist Practice law.

**Intro Date**

03/19/2026

**Last Action**

03/19/2026 S - Cosponsor memo filed

## Basic Ed Bill Actions

**HB289 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in grounds and buildings, providing for radon testing.**

### Sponsor

Rep. Tim Briggs (D)

### Summary

(PN 234) Amends the Public School Code, in grounds and buildings, providing for radon testing. Directs schools to be tested for radon gas every school year starting in 2026-2027. Provides that if a test result is at least four picocuries per liter of air, the school building shall be mitigated and retested until the radon levels are less than four picocuries per liter of air. Establishes what shall apply to the initial testing of a school building's radon gas levels. Requires radon gas testing to be performed by an individual who is certified under the Radon Certification Act in accordance with the version of ANSI-AARST MA-MFLB Protocol for Conducting Measurements of Radon and Radon Decay Products in Multifamily, School, Commercial and Mixed-Use Buildings in effect on the effective date. Specifies what shall apply to radon gas mitigations, including requiring radon gas mitigation system installations to be completed within six months of positive results. Provides for communication of results to school officials, government agencies and parents. Provides for reporting of test results. Provides for radon-resistant construction of new school buildings. Provides definitions. Effective in 120 days.

### Intro Date

01/23/2025

### Actions

01/22/2025 H - Introduced

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01/23/2025 H - Referred to House Environmental and Natural Resource Protection

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03/16/2026 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/23/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Environmental and Natural Resource Protection), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

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**HB830 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in student supports, further providing for policy relating to bullying.**

### Sponsor

Rep. Jennifer O'Mara (D)

### Summary

(PN 861) Amends the Public School Code, in student supports, further providing for policy relating to bullying. Requires bullying policy to include mechanisms to notify parents and legal guardians of children involved in a bullying or cyberbullying incident within five days of the incident. Stipulates that a school entity's notification to a parent about an incident or a report of bullying, cyberbullying or retaliation must comply with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (relating to family educational and privacy rights) and 34 CFR Pt. 99 (relating to family educational rights and privacy). Defines "cyberbullying." Effective in 60 days.

### Intro Date

03/10/2025

### Actions

03/06/2025 H - Introduced

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03/10/2025 H - Referred to House Education



**HB1045 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school health services, further providing for seizure recognition and related first aid training.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Carol Kazeem (D)

**Summary**

(PN 1134) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, further providing for seizure recognition and related first aid training. Requires completion of seizure recognition and related first aid training beginning with the school year 2025-2026 and every two years thereafter. Provides that nothing in this section shall be construed to create, establish or expand any civil liability on the part of any school entity or any school entity employe. Stipulates the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 8332 (relating to emergency response provider and bystander good Samaritan civil immunity) and 8337.1 (relating to civil immunity of school officers or employees relating to emergency care, first aid and rescue) shall apply to a school entity employe who provides treatment to a student experiencing a seizure in a manner consistent with the policy adopted by the school entity. Effective in 60 days.

**Intro Date**

03/25/2025

**Actions**

03/25/2025 H - Introduced

03/25/2025 H - Referred to House Education

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03/16/2026 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/24/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol

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**HB1077 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school health services, establishing the Commission on Children's Vision and providing for duties of Commission on Children's Vision.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz (D)

**Summary**

(PN 1195) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, establishing the Commission on Children's Vision and providing for duties of Commission on Children's Vision. Establishes the commission as a departmental administrative commission under the concurrent authority of the Department of Education (PDE) and the Department of Health (DOH). Mandates that the commission consist of the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and no less than twelve vision care professionals that work for local nonprofit organizations that provide eyeglasses to children. Directs initial members to draw lots to determine term lengths. Directs that the chairperson of the commission annually rotate between the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health. Permits the commission to perform acts and implement policies, procedures and guidelines as may be necessary. Requires the commission to hold its first meeting within 30 days of the effective date. Directs the commission hold meetings at the call of the chairperson. Asserts that members may not receive compensation or reimbursement for their service. Directs the General Assembly to provide administrative support, meeting space and other assistance required by the commission. Directs the commission to work with vision care professionals in developing a statewide plan to provide follow-up vision examinations and glasses to all children who need follow-up vision examinations and glasses. Requires the commission to develop a model for statewide programs to provide vision screenings, eye examinations, follow-up eye examinations and glasses to students who need them for little to no cost. Directs the commission to provide support and coordination for statewide and local activities. Requires the commission to review findings and recommendations related to children's vision care. Directs the commission to consult with and utilize experts to

assist in carrying out duties. Requires the commission to investigate, review and issue an annual report on the status of the programs. Directs the commission to submit a report to the Governor of the General Assembly by December 31 of each year. Mandates PDE and DOH to provide staff. Defines "commission" and "school entity." Effective in 60 days.

**Intro Date**

04/01/2025

**Actions**

03/28/2025 H - Introduced

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04/01/2025 H - Referred to House Health

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03/17/2026 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/25/2026, 9:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Health), Room B31, Main Capitol

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**HB1752 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, providing for Keystone Exam alternative feasibility study.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Gina H. Curry (D)

**Summary**

(PN 2159) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for Keystone Exam alternative feasibility study. Directs the secretary of education to contract for an independent study to determine whether the ACT and SAT may be administered in lieu of the current statewide, standardized Keystone Exams in literature, algebra I and biology for high school students consistent with Federal requirements under 20 U.S.C. § 6311(b) (2)(H) (relating to state plans). Directs the secretary to submit, within one year after the effective date of this subsection, a report containing the results of the study and recommendations to the governor and the chairperson and minority chairperson of the House and Senate Education Committees. Outlines what the study shall include. Provides definitions. Effective immediately.

**Intro Date**

07/22/2025

**Actions**

07/21/2025 H - Introduced

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07/22/2025 H - Referred to House Education

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03/16/2026 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/24/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol

**HB2218 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for comprehensive school counseling services.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Mandy Steele (D)

**Summary**

(PN 2912) Amends the Public School Code, adding an article to provide for comprehensive school counseling services. Provides definitions. Requires each school entity to develop and implement a written comprehensive school counseling plan and outlines the general requirements that the plan must meet. Specifies the components and contents that the plan must contain. Requires sufficient time at each school entity to be allotted for the school entity's counselor to carry out the duties stated in the school entity's plan. Provides for direct and indirect services. Allows a school counselor to spend a portion of the school counselor's working time during student contact days performing program planning and school support, after applying subsection (b) and with a goal of no more than 20%. Outlines monitoring and support, including the posting of the plan, oversight and Department of Education duties. Asserts that nothing in this article shall be construed to supersede or preempt the rights, remedies and procedures afforded to school employees or labor organizations under federal or state law or any provision of a collective bargaining agreement negotiated between a school employer and an exclusive representative of the employees in accordance with the Public Employee Relations Act. Effective immediately.

**Intro Date**

02/12/2026

**Actions**

02/12/2026 H - Introduced

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02/13/2026 H - Referred to House Education

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03/16/2026 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/24/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol

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**HB2269 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, repealing provisions relating to medical education loan assistance.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Jennifer O'Mara (D)

**Summary**

(PN 2968) Amends the Public School Code, repealing provisions relating to medical education loan assistance. Effective immediately.

**Intro Date**

03/06/2026

**Actions**

03/06/2026 H - Introduced

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03/09/2026 H - Referred to House Education

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03/16/2026 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/24/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol

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**HB2285 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school health services, further providing for health services; and, in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for State reimbursement for health services.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Lisa A. Borowski (D)

**Summary**

(PN 2992) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, further providing for health services; and, in reimbursements by commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for state reimbursement for health services. Establishes a staffing ratio of one certified school nurse for every 750 students. Increases the non-categorical reimbursement rate to \$12.61 multiplied by the average daily membership (ADM) of each school district. Specifies that reimbursement may not exceed the actual cost to the school district for health services in the school year. Requires the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Education, to use up to \$3,000,000 to award grants for feminine hygiene products to school entities to be provided to students at no expense. Effective in 60 days.

**Intro Date**

03/12/2026

**Actions**

03/12/2026 H - Introduced

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03/12/2026 H - Referred to House Education

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03/16/2026 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/24/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol

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**HB2291 - An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in tobacco products tax, further providing for licensing of retailers.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Chris Pielli (D)

**Summary**

(PN 3001) Amends the Tax Reform Code, in tobacco products tax, further providing for licensing of retailers. Specifies the requirements applicants must meet prior to 2027 for a retail license or renewal of that license. Adds requirements that applicants must meet on or after Jan. 1, 2027, for a retail license or renewal of that license. Effective in 60 days.

**Intro Date**

03/16/2026

**Actions**

03/16/2026 H - Introduced

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03/16/2026 H - Referred to House Finance

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**HB2293 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in charter schools, further providing for enrollment.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Marc S. Anderson (R)

**Summary**

(PN 3007) Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for enrollment. Provides that “governing authority” shall include, but not be limited to, the department. Effective in 60 days.

**Intro Date**

03/16/2026

**Actions**

03/16/2026 H - Introduced

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03/18/2026 H - Referred to House Education

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**HB2295 - An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in cigarette sales and licensing, further providing for definitions, for licensing of retailers and for transfer of licenses.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Ben Waxman (D)

**Summary**

(PN 3020) Amends the Fiscal Code, in cigarette sales and licensing, further providing for definitions, for licensing of retailers and for transfer of licenses. Defines “recreational place” and “youth center.” Outlines the requirements that applicants for a retail license or renewal thereof shall meet on or after Jan. 1, 2027. Effective immediately.

**Intro Date**

03/16/2026

**Actions**

03/16/2026 H - Introduced

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03/18/2026 H - Referred to House Finance

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**HB2307 - 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, further providing for extraordinary special education program expenses.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Emily Kinhead (D)

**Summary**

No summary available yet.

**Intro Date**

03/19/2026

**Actions**

03/19/2026 H - Introduced

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**HR407 - A Resolution recognizing the week of April 11 through 17, 2026, as "Week of the Young Child" in Pennsylvania.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D)

**Summary**

(PN 2816) Resolution recognizing the week of April 11 through 17, 2026, as "Week of the Young Child" in Pennsylvania.

**Intro Date**

01/28/2026

**Actions**

01/28/2026 H - Introduced

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01/28/2026 H - Referred to House Children and Youth

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03/18/2026 H - Meeting Scheduled - 03/25/2026, 10:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Children and Youth), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

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**SB9 - An Act providing for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creating causes of action for harm suffered by designation.**

**Sponsor**

Sen. Judy Ward (R)

**Summary**

(PN 177) The Fairness in Women's Sports Act provides for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creates causes of action for harm suffered by designation. Provides definitions. Prohibits athletic teams or sports designated for females, women or girls from being open to students of the male sex. Allows students to participate in an interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic team or sport designed for the student's sex or designated coed or mixed. Prohibits a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization or an athletic association or organization from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation or taking any other adverse action against a school or institution of higher education for maintaining separate interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic teams or sports for students of the female sex. Permits a student who is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a known violation to bring a cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, psychological, emotional and physical harm suffered, attorney fees and costs and any other relief available under law against the school or institution of higher education. Allows a student who is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a school, institution of higher education or athletic association or organization as a result of reporting a violation to an employee or representative of the school, institution or athletic association or organization or to any federal or state agency with oversight of schools or institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania to bring a cause of action. Permits a school or institution of higher education that suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a violation to bring cause of action. Prohibits a person from bringing a civil action later than two years after the day on which the harm underlying the cause of action occurs. Provides that if a part of this act is found invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part shall remain in effect. Effective in 60 days.

**Intro Date**

02/03/2025

**Actions**

10/29/2025 H - Re-referred to House Judiciary

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02/03/2026 H - Discussed during voting meeting House Health

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03/10/2026 H - Voted favorably from committee with request to re-refer to House Children & Youth House Judiciary

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03/19/2026 H - Reported with request to re-refer to the House Children and Youth Committee House Judiciary

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03/19/2026 H - Re-referred to House Children and Youth

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**SB1090 - An Act providing for disclosures and safeguards relating to the use of artificial intelligence; and imposing duties on the Attorney General.**

**Sponsor**

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)

**Summary**

(PN 1423) The Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitative Chatbots and Harmful AI Technology Act provides for disclosures and safeguards relating to the use of artificial intelligence (AI); and imposes duties on the Attorney General. Provides definitions. Requires an operator to issue a clear and conspicuous notification indicating that the AI companion is artificially generated and not human if a reasonable person interacting with an AI companion would be misled to believe the person is interacting with a human. Outlines suicide and self-harm safeguards, as well as safeguards for minors for a user that the operator knows or should have known. Mandates general disclosure if a service is offered to users that an operator knows are minors. Specifies that this act shall not apply to the underlying AI model unless the model is directly offered, configured or deployed as an AI companion. Directs the Attorney General to enforce this act. Provides for a civil penalty in addition to any other remedy provided by law. Effective in 120 days. (Prior PN: 1311)

**Intro Date**

11/14/2025

**Actions**

03/16/2026 S - Meeting Scheduled - 03/17/2026 - Voting Meeting (Senate Appropriations), Rules Committee Conference Room

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03/17/2026 S - Voted Favorably From Committee Senate Appropriations

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03/17/2026 S - Re-reported as committed Senate Appropriations

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03/17/2026 S - Laid out for discussion

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03/17/2026 S - Third consideration and final passage

## Higher Ed Bill Actions

**HB2237 - An Act amending the act of June 23, 1999 (P.L.159, No.22), known as the New Economy Technology Scholarship Act, further providing for annual report.**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Mary Isaacson (D)

**Summary**

(PN 2930) Amends the New Economy Technology Scholarship Act, further providing for annual report. Establishes that the report will be published by September 1, following the end of the fiscal year, when funds have been allocated for the program. Effective in 60 days.

**Intro Date**

02/20/2026

**Actions**

02/20/2026 H - Introduced

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02/20/2026 H - Referred to House Education



**HR453 - A Resolution authorizing the sale of property known as the Clearfield Location of Commonwealth University, located at 201 University Drive, in the Borough of Clearfield, Clearfield County. (This is a State System of Higher Education Property Request where final action on this request must occur within 30 calendar days following its date of transmittal to the General Assembly, excluding days on which either house is not in session because of an adjournment of more than 10 days to a day certain, or the request is deemed approved.)**

**Sponsor**

Rep. Tim Briggs (D)

**Summary**

(PN 3034) Resolution authorizing the sale of property known as the Clearfield Location of Commonwealth University, located at 201 University Drive, in the Borough of Clearfield, Clearfield County. (This is a State System of Higher Education Property Request where final action on this request must occur within 30 calendar days following its date of transmittal to the General Assembly, excluding days on which either house is not in session because of an adjournment of more than 10 days to a day certain, or the request is deemed approved.)

**Intro Date**

03/19/2026

**Actions**

03/19/2026 H - Referred to House Calendar

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**SB9 - An Act providing for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creating causes of action for harm suffered by designation.**

**Sponsor**

Sen. Judy Ward (R)

**Summary**

(PN 177) The Fairness in Women's Sports Act provides for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creates causes of action for harm suffered by designation. Provides definitions. Prohibits athletic teams or sports designated for females, women or girls from being open to students of the male sex. Allows students to participate in an interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic team or sport designed for the student's sex or designated coed or mixed. Prohibits a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization or an athletic association or organization from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation or taking any other adverse action against a school or institution of higher education for maintaining separate interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic teams or sports for students of the female sex. Permits a student who is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a known violation to bring a cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, psychological, emotional and physical harm suffered, attorney fees and costs and any other relief available under law against the school or institution of higher education. Allows a student who is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a school, institution of higher education or athletic association or organization as a result of reporting a violation to an employee or representative of the school, institution or athletic association or organization or to any federal or state agency with oversight of schools or institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania to bring a cause of action. Permits a school or institution of higher education that suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a violation to bring cause of action. Prohibits a person from bringing a civil action later than two years after the day on which the harm underlying the cause of action occurs. Provides that if a part of this act is found invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part shall remain in effect. Effective in 60 days.

**Intro Date**

02/03/2025

## Actions

10/29/2025 H - Re-referred to House Judiciary

---

02/03/2026 H - Discussed during voting meeting House Health

---

03/10/2026 H - Voted favorably from committee with request to re-refer to House Children & Youth House Judiciary

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03/19/2026 H - Reported with request to re-refer to the House Children and Youth Committee House Judiciary

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03/19/2026 H - Re-referred to House Children and Youth

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**SB1210 - An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.789, No.285), known as The Insurance Department Act of 1921, in insurance producers, further providing for powers and duties of department.**

## Sponsor

Sen. Chris Gebhard (R)

## Summary

(PN 1498) Amends the Insurance Department Act, in insurance producers, further providing for powers and duties of department. Requires the Insurance Department (PID) to approve or contract to approve any program or course of study that prepares candidates for an insurance producer licensing exam. Effective immediately.

## Intro Date

03/12/2026

## Actions

03/17/2026 S - Voted Favorably From Committee Senate Banking and Insurance

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03/17/2026 S - Reported as committed Senate Banking and Insurance

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03/17/2026 S - First consideration

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03/18/2026 S - Second consideration

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03/18/2026 S - Re-referred to Senate Appropriations

## Upcoming Events

### **MONDAY – 03/23/2026**

#### **10:00 AM, [House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection](#)**

*Voting Meeting, Room 515, Irvis Office Building*

To consider: [HB 289](#), [HB 2161](#), [HB 2229](#) and [HB 2246](#)

#### **10:30 AM, Music in the Schools Month**

*Press Conference, Main Capitol Rotunda*

#### **1:30 PM, Teach Plus PA**

*Press Conference, Main Capitol*

**TUESDAY – 03/24/2026**

**9:30 AM, [House Education](#)**

*Voting Meeting, Room 140, Main Capitol*

To consider: [HB 830](#), [HB 1045](#), [HB 1752](#), [HB 2218](#), [HB 2237](#), [HB 2269](#), [HB 2285](#), [HR 417](#) and [HR 434](#)

**11:30 AM, Celebrating National School Choice Week**

*Press Conference, Main Capitol Rotunda*

**1:00 PM, Brown Bags and Big Voices Hearing from PAs Children**

*Press Conference, Main Capitol Steps*

**WEDNESDAY – 03/25/2026**

**9:00 AM, [House Health](#)**

*Voting Meeting, Room B-31, Main Capitol*

To consider: [HB 1077](#), [HB 2265](#), [HR 404](#), [HR 405](#), [HR 414](#), [HR 428](#), [HR 430](#), [HR 432](#) and [HR 435](#)

**10:30 AM, [House Children & Youth](#)**

*Voting Meeting, Room 515, Irvis Office Building*

To consider: [HR 407](#) and [HR 421](#)

## **In the News**

[03/13/2026 - DHS & L&I: Shapiro Administration Launches New Initiative to Streamline Certification of Education and Training Programs that Help SNAP Recipients Meet Federal Guidelines, Put Food on the Table](#)

[03/16/2026 - PSERS' Actuarial Valuation Report Shows Continued Financial Improvement and Membership Growth](#)

[03/17/2026 - Langerholc Launches Essay Contest for Student Participation in Ceremonial Meeting](#)

[03/17/2026 - teenTALK in Berks County: Attorney General Sunday Meets with Students for Discussion on Social Media's Impact on Mental Health](#)

[03/17/2026 - PDE: Shapiro Administration Puts More Special Education Teachers in Pennsylvania Classrooms](#)

[03/17/2026 - Miller, Pennycuik Bill to Protect Children from Harmful AI Chat Interactions Passes Senate](#)

[03/17/2026 - Senate Approves Pennycuik Measure to Protect Children from Harmful AI Chats](#)

[03/17/2026 - PDE: Shapiro Administration Invests \\$1.7 Million in Pennsylvania Colleges and Universities for "It's On Us" Initiatives to Combat Sexual Violence](#)

[03/18/2026 - Baker: Measure to Protect Children from Harmful AI Chats Approved by Senate](#)

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

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

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