



July 5, 2017

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

On Friday, June 30th, the House and Senate passed a spending plan that outlines the 2017/18 general fund appropriations for all Commonwealth state agencies and programs. It includes, as anticipated, a State System appropriation of \$453.1 million an increase of \$8.9 million or 2.0 percent. This is the same level as was recommended by the Governor in February.

The System is very appreciative of the support of the Legislature, the Governor, and other stakeholders, which resulted in additional funding in the midst of such difficult fiscal challenges facing the Commonwealth.

Since sending the General Appropriations bill to the governor, lawmakers and staff have continued revenue discussions.

"The clock is ticking on Pennsylvania lawmakers grappling with the state government's biggest shortfall since the recession to come up with the \$2 billion-plus they say they need to balance a shortfall from the just-ended fiscal year and a projected deficit in the just-started fiscal year," [PennLive](#) reports.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

[Senate Session Days](#) | [Watch Session Live](#) | [Senate Calendars](#) | [Senate Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

The Senate stands on a six-hour call of the President Pro Tempore.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

[House Session Days](#) | [Watch Session Live](#) | [House Calendars](#) | [House Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

The chamber could return on Thursday, as was announced by Speaker Mike Turzai prior to the conclusion of session on Friday, June 30th. There are various bills of interest on the House calendar, but action is not expected.

State System

Bill Tracker Report

This tracking information is updated during legislative session weeks. Bills of interest on which action has occurred since the last Legislative UPDATE include:

Actions in the Senate:

- [HB 97](#) Amends the Public School Code, providing for advertising, transfer of attendance records, agreements with institutions of higher education; extensively revising charter school provisions; & establishing Charter School Funding Advisory Commission. Last Action: 06-29-17 S Passed over in committee Senate Appropriations
- [HB 126](#) An Act providing for the use of epinephrine auto-injectors by certain entities and organizations; and conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Health. Last Action: 06-30-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Actions in the House:

- [HB 1023](#) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for continuing professional development & for continuing professional education for leaders & providing for the Teacher Mentor Program. Last Action: 06-28-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education
- [HB 1623](#) Amends the Public Employe Relations Act, in representation, further providing for exclusive representation; and making related repeals. Last Action: 06-26-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government
- [HB 1633](#) Amends the Public School Code, in sexual violence education at institutions of higher education, establishing the Task Force on Campus Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault. Last Action: 06-28-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education
- [SB 325](#) An Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. Last Action: 06-30-17 H Received in the House and referred to House Appropriations
- [SB 326](#) Supplement to the act to accept grant of Public Lands, by the US, to several states, for endowment of Agricultural Colleges making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; & providing for basis for payments of appropriation. Last Action: 06-30-17 H Received in the House and referred to House Appropriations
- [SB 327](#) Supplement to the University of Pittsburgh - Commonwealth Act making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; & providing for a basis for payments, for method of accounting & for certain fiscal information disclosure. Last Action: 06-30-17 H Received in the House and referred to House Appropriations
- [SB 328](#) Supplement to the Temple University - Commonwealth Act making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments; for method of accounting & for certain fiscal information

disclosure. Last Action: 06-30-17 H Received in the House and referred to House Appropriations

[SB 329](#)

Supplement to the Lincoln University - Commonwealth Act making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; & providing for a basis for payments, for method of accounting & for certain fiscal information disclosure. Last Action: 06-30-17 H Received in the House and referred to House Appropriations

[SB 651](#)

An Act providing for the capital budget for fiscal year 2017-2018. Last Action: 06-27-17 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

Co-sponsorship memos:

[SCO 987](#)

Changes some certification requirements for vocational teachers. Last Action: 06-30-17 S Filed

This update is provided as a courtesy of the Office of the Chancellor as a preview of upcoming legislative activity and a review of action on legislative issues of interest to the State System. The Legislative UPDATE is distributed during legislative session weeks.

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