



September 11, 2017

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

On Tuesday, September 6, Governor Wolf announced the introduction of ["It's On Us PA" legislation](#).

Joined by legislators, advocates, and students, including Lock Haven, Millersville and Shippensburg Universities, it was announced that the package is intended to combat sexual violence in K-12 schools and on college and university campuses. The six bills would:

- **Expand the scope, authority, and capacity of the Office for Safe Schools** within the Department of Education to support both K-12 and postsecondary institutions, as well as monitor compliance with existing federal and state requirements related to sexual violence prevention and response.
- **Publish an annual report card on sexual violence and harassment** in K-12 and postsecondary institutions using existing data reported to the Department and/or other publicly reported data.
- **Create a consolidated, comprehensive anti-violence and anti-harassment policy for K-12 schools** that aligns requirements related to bullying, hazing, sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, and other issues.
- **Require postsecondary institutions adopt affirmative consent standards** for responding to allegations of sexual violence, and expand K-12 health education standards to explicitly address areas of consent and healthy relationships in middle and high school.
- **Require that postsecondary institutions offer online, anonymous reporting options** for students as part of their required reporting and response systems under federal and state law.
- **Establish amnesty policies protecting students who report sexual assault to postsecondary institutions** from being disciplined for other policy violations, such as drug and alcohol use.

Cosponsorship memos for these bills are being circulated (see Bill Tracker Report). The Office of the Chancellor will review the legislation as it is introduced and referred to committee.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The chamber is scheduled to return to session on Monday, September 18.

In late August, the [Legislation Budget and Finance Committee](#), chaired by Senators Bob Mensch and Jim Brewster, met recently to discuss and award a contract for the study called for by [SR 34](#), which calls for a review of the State System.

The Committee released a request for proposal (RFP) in late July; it received three proposals. It was determined that when a FY 2017-18 revenue plan is completed, the Committee will enter into a contract with RAND to carry out the study.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House returns to session for a full week, meeting daily beginning Monday at 1:00 p.m. through Friday potentially.

The chamber's main focus will be concluding the state budget. Since July 27, the House has been reviewing [House Bill 542](#), the Fiscal Code portion of the budget, passed by the Senate. At least two plans for balancing the state budget have been introduced recently.

The Taxpayers' Budget Revenue Plan "would balance the budget in large part through the use of money [the workgroup suggests] currently sitting idle in government accounts." [MORE >>](#)

Another budget plan unveiled by Rep. Gene DiGirolamo is a combination of various proposals, including an increase in the personal income tax among other things. [MORE >>](#)

Last Tuesday, Governor Wolf announced "painful" cuts would have to be made to the state budget by the end of this week, as the "state will run out of options to pay for government services" if a plan to fund the \$32 billion spending plan is not concluded. [MORE >>](#)

Legislation providing funding for the four state-related universities and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine remains tied up.

Regarding other floor and committee activity, there are no bills of interest scheduled as of yet for consideration by the full House or in committee.

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 118](#)

Amends the Administrative Code implementing the 2017-18 budget & instituting future budget implementation; for administrative organization; providing for

alternative judicial administration; and making related repeals. Last Action: 07-27-17 S Final passage (Y:37/N:13)

[HB 178](#)

Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for Keystone Exams & ESSA State plan review; for financial recovery; for professional employees; for certification; for funding & reimbursements; & changes. Last Action: 07-27-17 S Final passage (Y:34/N:16)

[HB 453](#)

Amends the Fiscal Code implementing the 2017-18 Commonwealth budget & instituting future budget implementation; repealing provisions; making an editorial change; and making related repeals. Last Action: 07-27-17 S Final passage (Y:40/N:10)

[HB 542](#)

Amends the Tax Reform Code further providing for title of act; for sales & use tax; for PIT: for Natural Gas Optimization Fund; for realty transfer tax; for electric grid virtual financial transactions tax; & making related repeals. Last Action: 07-27-17 S Final passage (Y:26/N:24)

[SB 168](#)

An Act providing for notice and disclosure of proposed collective bargaining agreements and related documents and for open records. Last Action: 07-27-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 503](#)

Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, further providing for executive sessions. Last Action: 07-27-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 504](#)

Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records. Last Action: 07-27-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Actions in the House:

[HB 1691](#)

Amends the General Appropriations Act of 2017, in General Fund and Federal appropriations for 2017-2018, reducing certain appropriations to the Executive Department, the General Assembly and legislative support agencies. Last Action: 08-15-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

[HB 1745](#)

Act regarding Fostering Independence Through Education, providing for a tuition and fee waiver program for youth who are or have been in substitute care. Last Action: 08-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

Co-sponsorship Memos:

[HCO2431](#)

Requires colleges and universities to provide amnesty to those who come forward about sexual violence that they have experienced or witnessed. Last Action: 08-30-17 H Filed

[HCO2432](#)

Requires postsecondary institutions to offer online and anonymous reporting options of a rape or incident of sexual assault for students and employees. Last Action: 08-30-17 H Filed

[HCO2443](#)

Requires educational institutions to adopt affirmative consent standards for responding to allegations of sexual assault and expands the state's current K-12 health education standards. Last Action: 09-01-17 H Filed

[HCO2445](#)

An Act regarding College Transition for Students. Last Action: 09-01-17 H Filed

[SCO1007](#)

Enacts the recommendations of the joint state government commission on suicide in higher education. Last Action: 08-03-17 S Filed

[SCO1035](#) Requires postsecondary institutions to adopt affirmative consent standards and expands the state's K-12 health education standards to address areas of consent and healthy relationships. Last Action: 08-30-17 S Filed

[SCO1036](#) Requires all institutions of higher education to provide amnesty under their disciplinary policies for violations of drug or alcohol restrictions by a victim or other witness that are disclosed in the course of good faith reporting. Last Action: 08-30-17 S Filed

[SCO1047](#) Expands the office of Safe Schools to postsecondary institutions. Last Action: 09-05-17 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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