



April 30, 2018

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

As the General Assembly heads into the height of the legislative budget process, we have launched a new mobile-friendly site that can help alumni, students, friends and others stay connected and express support and appreciation for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

#Prepared4PA: <http://cqrcengage.com/statesystem>

On the site, obtain information on how to engage in the advocacy process; access current campaign information, talking points, infographics, and social media content; sign up for ACTION ALERTS; look up legislators' contact information; and even directly tweet legislators.

Your voice matters, and together, we can make a difference. Encourage support for YOUR university and the whole State System.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate stands in recess until Monday, May 21, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

Although not in session, the Senate Education Committee will hold a joint hearing with the House Education Committee today, at 11:00 AM in Room 8E-A and 8E-B of the East Wing Capitol Building to hear testimony on the RAND Corporation study of the State System, [Promoting the Long-Term Sustainability and Viability of Universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education](#), which was released recently by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee. The hearing will be streamed live and can be viewed on the [Senate Education Committee website](#).

The RAND study affirms much of the work conducted last year by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) as part of the State System's Board of Governors' own top-to-bottom review of the System and its 14 universities. That effort resulted in a report presented by NCHEMS that is guiding the State System's redesign efforts, beginning with the adoption by the Board

last October of three priorities: ensuring student success, leveraging university strengths and transforming the governance/leadership structure. [READ MORE >>](#)

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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The House convenes today at 1:00 p.m. After session on Tuesday and Wednesday, the chamber next plans to be in session on May 22 and 23. The chamber's voting calendar includes third consideration and final passage of a [legislative package](#) to enhance Career and Technical Education, including:

[HB 2158](#) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for career information and recruitment. The bill establishes that school entities shall seek participation of representatives of skilled trades, area career and technical education schools, institutions of higher education, business, industry, charitable institutions or other employers regarding employment, employment training or education opportunities.

[HB 2159](#) Amends the Public School Code to expand the Department of Education's database of articulation agreements to include state-related institutions, accredited rural regional colleges, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, and public schools. The bill does not necessarily impose any new requirements on the State system; however, it does seek to improve the electronic database agreements and the frequency which the Transfer and Articulation Agreement Committee meets.

[HB 2203](#) Amends the Public School Code, in vocational education, providing for an online career resource center. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish a central online clearinghouse which shall at a minimum include an online database of the following: postsecondary pathways and options; career and technical education and workforce; career pathways; data and statistics on employment opportunities and compensation; statewide and regional articulation agreements; and other relevant career resources.

[HB 2204](#) Amends the Public School Code adding a new section requiring the Department of Education, no later than January 1, 2019, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Industry, to conduct an inventory to determine the number and types of workforce development programs offered at secondary and postsecondary institutions. Allows the department to compile a clearinghouse of model programs discovered during the inventory. Provides the department shall encourage the use of the model programs by secondary career and technical education programs, postsecondary programs and business and industry. Also requires the department to report its findings and actions to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations and Education Committees.

In committee activity, the House Finance Committee meets Wednesday to consider [HB 2248](#), legislation amending the Tuition Account Programs and College Savings Bond Act to establish the Keystone Scholars Grant Program. The program provides for \$100 to be set aside within the Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program Fund, when the fund is in excess of five percent of the actuarially determined liabilities of the fund, for each child born in Pennsylvania to be used for qualified higher education expenses associated with the attendance at an eligible educational institution.

State System

Bill Tracker Report

Tracking information is updated during legislative session weeks.

Actions in the Senate:

[SB 1073](#) Amends the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law further providing for disability benefits by covering certain Law Enforcement agencies, including campus police officers. Last Action: 04-23-18 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 1143](#) Amends the Workforce Development Act, in industry partnerships, providing for definitions, for industry clusters, for interdepartmental cooperation and for industry & labor market research and for dissemination of research to education institutions. Last Action: 04-23-18 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Labor and Industry

Co-sponsor Memos:

[SCO1413](#) Exempts the State System of Higher Education from the Procurement Code.

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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