April 16, 2018

Legislative UPDATE
Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education

Since February, our #Prepared4PA advocacy campaign has been highlighting innovative programs and opportunities that prepare students to be PA’s next generation of leaders in business, health, education, the arts, and beyond. It includes alumni who share their stories of how a State System education prepared them for success.

Support the campaign by telling your story on social media (use our #Prepared4PA hashtag) or by following the State System on Facebook and Twitter. Your stories best describe our collective value to the Commonwealth—you are the real face of PA. When we invest in our state universities, we invest in our state’s future. It’s really that simple. VIEW >>

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

The Senate convenes in voting session this afternoon at 1 p.m. The following bills of interest are on the Senate Calendar:

- **SB 1078**: Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, adding that an executive session may be held to discuss, plan or review matters and records that are deemed necessary for emergency preparedness, protection of public safety and security of all property in a manner that if disclosed would be reasonably likely to jeopardize or threaten public safety or preparedness or public protection.

- **SB 1090**: Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in offenses involving danger to the person, providing for antihazing and prescribing penalties; in forfeiture of assets, further providing for asset forfeiture; and making a related repeal. The bill adds a chapter to Title 18 on antihazing, defines the offense of hazing, and provides for aggravated hazing, organizational hazing, and institutional hazing. Institutions and secondary schools shall adopt policies against
hazing and appropriate penalties for hazing. Title 42 is amended to provide for asset forfeiture for aggravated hazing.

There are no committee meetings of interest scheduled as of yet.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

The House also convenes this afternoon through Wednesday.

The week ahead includes consideration of school-to-work pilot program legislation. Also, the chamber is set to possibly advance non-preferred legislation that appropriates funds to the Commonwealth's state-related universities. Those bills propose the same amount as was received by Penn State, University of Pittsburgh, Temple University, Lincoln University and the University of Pennsylvania in Fiscal Year 2017-18.

Establishing the CareerBound Act, providing for the creation and implementation of up to seven school-to-work pilot programs in the Department of Labor and Industry, to be known as CareerBound, and providing a tax credit to businesses that participate in the program. The Act would require program partners to set objectives and measurable goals; require Department of Labor and Industry to set outcome-based metrics used to evaluate all programs in annual and final reports; allow contributing businesses to designate which program their contributions would support; enumerate and allow Pennsylvania institutions of higher learning to participate in CareerBound; include "soft skills" in curriculum requirements; give priority to programs targeting middle school and early high school students; and clarify that the Department of Labor and Industry and the Pennsylvania Department of Education must provide program partners with informational resources.

In floor activity last week, the chamber approved HB 2124, student debt letter legislation. The legislation now advances to the Senate for similar consideration.

The Office of the Chancellor continues to assert, based on feedback from financial aid officers, that while appreciative of amendments made in committee and supportive of the intentions for the legislation, the requirements contained within the bill are duplicative of requirements already in place and would put an additional strain on university resources that could otherwise be invested in teaching and learning.

Regarding committee action, the House Education Committee meets today at 11 a.m., with a full schedule before it, including:

- **HB 2155**: Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for provisional vocational education certificate.
- **HB 2156**: Amends the Public School Code, providing for a Career and Technical Education Partnership Tax Credit Program.
- **HB 2157**: Amends the Public School Code, in terms & courses of study, providing for a Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence; in vocational education, for utilization of credits; and for classification of program code.
- **HB 2158**: Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for career information and recruitment.
Amends the Public School Code, in transfers of credits between institutions of higher education, providing for definitions, duties of public institutions, Transfer & Articulation Oversight Committee, and duties of department.

HB 2203
Amends the Public School Code, in vocational education, providing for an online career resource center.

HB 2204
Amends the Public School Code, in vocational education, providing for a workforce development program clearinghouse.

HB 2205
Amends the Public School Code, in vocational education, further providing for advisory committees.

HB 2206
Amends the Workforce Development Act, in local workforce investment areas and boards, further providing for membership.

On Thursday, the Senate Democratic Policy Committee is scheduled to hold a public hearing on "Our Students, Our Workforce, and the Jobs of Tomorrow."

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**State System**

**Bill Tracker Report**

Tracking information is updated during legislative session weeks.

**Actions in the Senate:**

Amends the mandated reporting provisions of the Child Protective Services Law to specifically require mandated reporters to report suspected child abuse whenever they personally witness an act of child abuse against an identifiable child. Last Action: 04-11-18 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Aging and Youth

**Actions in the House:**

Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for information regarding education loans. Last Action: 04-11-18 H Final Passage (Vote Y: 190, N: 0)

An Act making an appropriation from the General Fund to the State System of Higher Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018. Last Action: 04-09-18 H Filed

An Act making appropriations from the General Fund to PA Higher Education Assistance Agency for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, & for the payment of bills incurred & remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Last Action: 04-09-18 H Filed

**Co-sponsor Memos:**

Removes substantial financial burdens on students and their families and make college more affordable for students attending one of Pennsylvania's state institutions. Last Action: 04-02-18 S Filed
Requires the Department of Labor and Industry to collect and publish forward-facing employment data. Last Action: 04-04-18 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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