



March 27, 2017

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

Only the Senate is in session this week.

In budget-related activity, the House last week positioned [HB 218](#) (Saylor), the budget proposal for the 2017-18 fiscal year, for a potential final House vote as early as next week when the chamber returns to session.

After receiving second consideration last Monday on the House floor, the General Fund bill was re-referred to the House Appropriations Committee for a second time. Pending further amendment in committee, the legislation would appropriate \$433.4 million to the State System, equal to the amount the System received in the 2015-16 fiscal year, and about \$11 million less than the amount the System is receiving this year.

The Governor's budget for 2017-18 recommends the State System receive an Educational & General Appropriation of \$453.1 million, an increase of \$8.9 million, or 2 percent over the current fiscal year. Conversely, the System's budget request of \$505.2 million reflects a \$61 million increase over the current appropriation to help offset a new funding requirement of \$79 million.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate convenes this week, beginning today at 1PM. The following bill of interest is on the Senate Calendar:

- [SB 167](#) (Wagner): Amends the Constitution of Pennsylvania, prohibiting the Executive Department and school districts from making payroll collections of dues, fees and political contributions.

In committee activity, the Senate Education Committee will meet Wednesday to consider various bills, including:

- [SR 34](#) (Argall): A resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and issue a report relating to the long-term sustainability and viability of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Provides the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Senate no later than September 1, 2017. Last action: Introduced and referred to committee, 03-02-17.

Earlier this month, the State System selected the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) to assist the Board of Governors in conducting a strategic review of the System's overall operations--including those at each of the universities and in the Office of the Chancellor. The study will make recommendations for changes that may be necessary to help ensure the System's long-term future. [READ>>](#)

Confirmation of the following new appointments still awaits consideration by the Senate: Damien M. Bower of Harrisburg to Edinboro University's Council of Trustee, and three student appointments to the Board of Governors, i.e., Shaina M. Hilsey of Garnet Valley (CaU), Logan L. Steigerwalt of Northampton (Slippery Rock) and Brian Swatt of Jermyn (IUP).

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House stands adjourned until Monday, April 3, at 1PM.

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:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| SB 167 | Joint Resolution re political funds. Last Action: 03-27-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar |
| SB 526 | Resolution re Biennial Budget. Last Action: 03-20-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations |

Actions in the House:

HB 110 Joint Resolution re Taxpayer Protection Act. Last Action: 04-03-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

HB 218 Act re Budget Bill. Last Action: 03-20-17 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

HB 365 Act re budget bill. Last Action: 03-16-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 375 Supplement re agricultural colleges. Last Action: 03-16-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 376 Supplement re University of Pittsburgh. Last Action: 03-16-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 377 Supplement re Temple University. Last Action: 03-16-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 378 Supplement re Lincoln University. Last Action: 03-16-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 379 Act re UPenn appropriations. Last Action: 03-16-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 410 Act re performance-based budgeting. Last Action: 04-03-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

HB 785 Amends Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act. Last Action: 04-03-17 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 930 Amends Titles 24, 51, & 71 re pension reform. Last Action: 03-22-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

HB 981 Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act re threshold. Last Action: 03-23-17 H Filed

HR 50 Resolution re Right-to-Know impact study. Last Action: 03-21-17 H Adopted (Vote: Y:197/N: 0)

Co-sponsorship Memos:

HCO1634 Sexual Assault Notation on College Transcripts. Last Action: 03-20-17 H Filed

HCO1644 Advanced Placement Articulation. Last Action: 03-21-17 H 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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