



April 24, 2017

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

More than 100 students, accompanied by dozens of faculty, staff, university presidents, trustees and alumni from the 14 universities that comprise Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education met with legislators throughout the Capitol last Tuesday seeking support for and investment in the State System.

The students met with legislators to talk about their own college experiences and how important the education they are receiving is to them and to their families, and about the vital role the universities play in each of the campus communities, as well as in their regions and across the Commonwealth.

Shaina Hilsey, Logan Steigerwalt and Montana Leaks, student leaders from California, Slippery Rock and West Chester Universities of Pennsylvania, respectively, spoke about their experiences during a news conference. Others who spoke at the event were State System Chancellor Frank T. Brogan, Slippery Rock University President Cheryl Norton and Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculty (APSCUF) President Ken Mash.

"Nearly 90 percent of the students who are attending the State System universities are Pennsylvania residents," said Logan Steigerwalt, a senior at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. "The vast majority of us will remain here after we graduate—to live, to work, and to raise our families. We will join the more than half a million State System university graduates living in the state today. Any way you look at it, an investment in the State System really is an investment in Pennsylvania's future."

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Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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The Senate convenes Monday afternoon at 1PM through Wednesday. The following bills of interest are on the Senate Calendar:

[SB 167](#) A Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania prohibiting the Executive Department and school districts from making payroll collections of dues, fees and political contributions.

[SB 273](#) Prohibits the expenditure of Commonwealth funds on certain institutions of higher education that adopt certain practices relating to immigration policy.

In floor activity last week, the Senate unanimously adopted Sen. Argall's resolution ([SR 34](#)) that would require the Legislative Budget Finance Committee to do a study of the State System. The Senate study would commence after the State System's Strategic Review is completed so that the Senate study can incorporate the findings of the System's review. [TRACK THE PROGRESS OF THE SYSTEM'S STRATEGIC REVIEW >>](#)

On Tuesday, the Senate State Government Committee will meet to consider:

[SB 168](#) Provides for notice and disclosure of proposed collective bargaining agreements and related documents and for open records.

[SB 504](#) Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records, adding that the exception for records pertaining to strategy relating to labor relations shall not apply to negotiations.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House convenes this week, beginning Monday afternoon at 1PM. The chamber is expected to consider the following bills of interest, all of which were reported from the House Education Committee last week:

[HB 97](#) Amends Public School Code regarding charter schools, including: 1) permitting charter, cyber charter and area vo-techs to enter into concurrent enrollment agreements with institutions of higher education, and 2) requiring school districts, intermediate units, community colleges and State System universities provide reasonable access to facilities for standardized testing purposes.

[HB 399](#) Amends the Public School Code regarding the recommendation of applicants for certification by teacher preparation programs, and the use of teacher certification assessments by teacher preparation programs.

[HB 1022](#) Amends the Public School Code to provide for the creation of uniform standards for awarding college credit for prior learning at public institutions of higher education.

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 631](#) Amends the Public School Code providing for information regarding education loans. Last Action: 04-17-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education
- [SB 634](#) Amends Public School Code regarding Advanced Placement articulation. Last Action: 04-17-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education
- [SR 34](#) Resolution regarding a State System sustainability study. Last Action: 04-20-17 G Transmitted as directed

Actions in the House:

- [HB 1095](#) An Act regarding lawful presence for benefits. Last Action: 04-12-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government
- [HB 1140](#) Amends Public School Code regarding the prevention of suicide. Last Action: 04-12-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education
- [HB 1150](#) An Act establishing a Statewide academic scholarship program to be known as the Reliable Educational Assistance for College Hopefuls Scholarship; and providing for the powers and duties of the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency. Last Action: 04-12-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education
- [HB 1225](#) Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act regarding applicability, providing the act shall have no application during the time period after June 30, 2017, and before July 1, 2020. Last Action: 04-17-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry
- [HB 1226](#) Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act regarding uniformity. Last Action: 04-17-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry
- [HB 1229](#) Amends the Right-to-Know Law, excepting from public records a home address. Last Action: 04-17-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government
- [HB 1236](#) Amends the Keystone Opportunity Zone, Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone and Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone Act, in procedures for zones, adding that the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act shall not apply to a project in a keystone opportunity zone for construction, reconstruction or alteration. Last Action: 04-17-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Commerce
- [HR 265](#) Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of the requirements and implications of each piece of legislation that pertains to healthcare, felony crimes, public school finance and higher education. Last Action: 04-19-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

Co-sponsorship memos:

- [SCO 822](#) Repeals the Pennsylvania Separations Act. Last Action: 04-19-17 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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