



June 5, 2017

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

The Senate convened Sunday evening in session during which the Senate Appropriations Committee met to consider [SB 1](#), pension reform legislation. A comprehensive amendment was offered and adopted in committee that would move public sector employees to a hybrid plan that combines both a 401(K) style component and a smaller defined benefit component. The new plan applies to new hires only; however current employees could choose to opt into the program. Specifically, new hires would be given a choice of one of three retirement options: 1) a full 401(k)-style option; 2) a defined benefit/defined contribution hybrid with a 1.0 multiplier at a lower employee costs; or 3) a defined benefit/defined contribution hybrid with a 1.25 multiplier at an increased employee cost. The legislation could be considered on final passage by the full chamber as early as today. A final vote in the House could happen Thursday. [MORE >>](#)

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The chamber returns to session this afternoon and will meet daily through Wednesday. The following bills of interest are on the chamber's bill calendar:

- [SB 1](#) Amends Titles 24 (Education), 51 (Military Affairs) & 71 (State Government), extensively revising pension provisions; providing for defined contribution plan; for health insurance; for military leaves of absence; for retirement.
- [SB 9](#) An Act requiring the identification of lawful presence in the United States as a prerequisite to the receipt of public benefits. The definition of "public benefit" includes postsecondary education.
- [SB 53](#) Amends The Higher Education Scholarship Law further providing for eligibility for State scholarship, allowing allow college students erolled in online courses to be awarded State grants.
- [SB 503](#) Amends Title 65 (Public Officers) eliminating the exemption of collective bargaining from the Sunshine Act.

[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.

[SB 634](#) Amends the Public School Code, requiring public institutions of higher education to adopt and make public uniform standards for determining and awarding academic credit for prior learning.

The following bills of interest wait action by the Senate Appropriations Committee:

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

[SB 273](#) Prohibition of funds for sanctuary campuses.

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, through Thursday. The following bill of interest is on the House Calendar for consideration; additional items may be added as the week progresses:

[HB 25](#) An Act providing for school-to-work pilot programs; establishing the CareerBound Program; providing for a tax credit; and imposing powers and duties on the Department of Labor and Industry. The legislation enumerates and allows Pennsylvania institutions of higher learning to participate in CareerBound.

[HB 410](#) An Act providing for performance-based budgeting; establishing the Performance-Based Budget Board & providing for its powers & duties; conferring powers & imposing duties on the IFO; & providing for performance hearings & reviews.

On Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Rep. Mike Hanna (D-Clinton), who serves on the State System's Board of Governors, will hold a higher education news conference to discuss [HR 331](#), a resolution which would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct the feasibility study and analyze all 14 universities of the State System, the state's 14 community colleges, the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, the Rural Regional College of Northern Pennsylvania, the Allegheny College of Maryland and four state-related universities. A [live video stream](#) will be available.

In committee activity, the House Judiciary Committee meets Wednesday to consider:

[SB 560](#) Amends Titles 18 & 42 to expand the scope of permissible audio and video recording by law enforcement officers and to allow for public access to those recordings.

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 524](#) Amends Act 10 of 1991 to bring State law regarding military recruiter access to students into compliance with Federal law. Last action: 05-31-17 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Education

Actions in the House:

[HB 1095](#) Act requiring the identification of lawful presence in the United States as a prerequisite to the receipt of public benefits. Last Action: 05-23-17 H Passed over in committee House State Government

[HB 1399](#) Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, further providing for executive sessions. Last Action: 05-18-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

[HB 1440](#) Act providing for notation on transcripts of students suspended or expelled from institutions of higher education. Last Action: 05-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

[HB 1448](#) Amends the Public School Code providing for higher education accountability and transparency. Last Action: 05-25-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

[HB 1481](#) Amends the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act, further providing for definitions. Last Action: 06-01-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

[HR 344](#) Resolution designating May 23, 2017, as Teacher Education Day in Pennsylvania and honoring the outstanding service of teacher educators who prepare teachers for Pennsylvania's classrooms. Last Action: 05-23-17 H Adopted (Vote: Y:194/N: 0)

Co-sponsorship memos:

[HCO2112](#) Repeals Pennsylvania's Separations Act. Last Action: 05-24-17 H Filed

[HCO2136](#) Requires all public institutions of higher learning to grant academic credit to our military personnel. Last Action: 05-30-17 H Filed
