



July 21, 2017

## Legislative UPDATE

### Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

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Since July 11, the House and Senate have been on a six-hour call. The latter chamber intends to return to session this afternoon. It is uncertain when the House intends to return to session. Both chambers continue to work towards finding a revenue solution to balance the budget that became law on July 11, without the governor's signature, and various code bills.

The Fiscal Year 2017-18 state budget includes about \$453.1 million for the State System, up from about \$444.2 million last year, an increase of \$8.9 million, or 2 percent. On July 13, the State System's Board of Governors approved a 3.5 percent increase in tuition for the 2017-18 academic year. [MORE >>](#)

While the Senate may move its own code bills, [SB 227 \(Eichelberger\)](#) is currently in play as the omnibus School Code bill; it includes the following provisions of interest:

**Section 1549 Agricultural Education** - Addresses agricultural education which requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture to provide educational resources and programming to kindergarten through secondary schools. A Commission of Agricultural Education Excellence will be established to include two representatives from the State System who have a background in or knowledge of agricultural education. The amendments add forestry to the list of topics in agricultural education, and make other technical changes.

**Section 1204 Granting Provisional College Certificates** – Requires the Department of Education to process applications for provisional college certifications submitted by members of the United State Armed Forces, veterans, or their spouses within 14 days of the date the department receives the completed application.

**Section 1216 Evaluation of Applications for Certification** – Prohibits teacher preparation programs approved by the Department of Education from requiring a passing score on certain teacher certification assessments as a condition of program completion or graduation. Scores from these assessments may also not be used as a component of a student's grade in any course. The bill also requires a teacher preparation program to recommend applicants for certification who meet certain grade point average standards.

**Section 2001-C Definitions, Section 2002-C Duties of public institutions of higher education, Section 2004-C Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee** – Requires public institutions of higher education to adopt and make public uniform standards for determining and awarding academic credit for prior learning. This includes college-level credit granted toward the award of a degree or certificate for learning that can be demonstrated, through various means of assessment, to be the equivalent of learning gained through formal collegiate instruction. The means of assessment include Advanced Placement

Exams, International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Exams, College-Level Examination Program Exams, and Dantes Subject Standardized Tests.

The standards will be developed by public institutions through their work on the existing Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee. The public institutions involved include the universities of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, Pennsylvania's Community Colleges, and other Pennsylvania colleges and universities that choose to participate. Reporting requirements concerning these standards are added to the duties of the Committee as well.

SB 227 waits consideration on final passage by the House. Thereafter, the bill would be returned to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

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## Senate

# Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate convenes Monday, July 17, at 1PM, with the Senate Appropriations Committee scheduled to meet off the floor to take up potential [Fiscal Code](#) and [omnibus School Code](#) bills. Additional session days could be added this week.

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## House of Representatives

# Session & Committee Activity

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The chamber is in recess until the call of the chair.

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## 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:

### Executive Actions:

[HB 218](#) An Act to provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative & Judicial Departments, the public debt & the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Last Action: 07-11-17 G Became law without Governor's signature (Act: 1A)

### Actions in the Senate:

[HB 1448](#) Amends the Public School Code providing for higher education accountability and transparency. Last Action: 07-06-17 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Education

- [SB 168](#) An Act providing for notice and disclosure of proposed collective bargaining agreements and related documents and for open records. Last Action: 07-11-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
- [SB 503](#) Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, further providing for executive sessions. Last Action: 07-11-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
- [SB 504](#) Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records. Last Action: 07-11-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
- [SB 744](#) An Act repealing the Pennsylvania Separations Act. Last Action: 07-07-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Labor and Industry

**Actions in the House:**

- [HB 97](#) Amends the Public School Code, providing for advertising, transfer of attendance records, agreements with institutions of higher education; extensively revising charter school provisions; & establishing Charter School Funding Advisory Commission. Last Action: 07-10-17 S Received as amended and referred to House Rules
- [SB 227](#) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions; further providing for Keystone Exams & ESSA; for school building projects; for professional employees; for food program; for reimbursements; for payments & repeals. Last Action: 07-11-17 H Over in House

**Co-sponsorship memos:**

- [SCO 990](#) Allows schools and colleges to keep an emergency supply of naloxone and administer it in the event that an overdose occurs on campus. Last Action: 07-06-17 S Filed

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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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