



October 30, 2017

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

The General Assembly last week approved a revenue package to fund the 2017-18 state budget. The Governor has until November 3rd to sign the Administrative Code; November 4th to sign the Fiscal Code bill; and until November 5th to sign the Tax Code and omnibus School Code bills. He may sign the bills on his desk or let them become law without his signature. A third option would be to veto any or all of them. Meanwhile, he has already signed legislation appropriating funding the Commonwealth's state-related universities. See Bill Tracker Report below.

The omnibus School Code bill covers a variety of topics, including these of interest:

- **Section 1216 Evaluation of Applications for Certification:** Prohibits the use of teacher certification assessments by teacher preparation programs as a condition of program completion or graduation
- **Section 1549.1 Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence:** Creates a Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence that will serve as a departmental administrative commission under the concurrent authority of the PDA and PDE; its purpose is to assist in the development, coordination and implementation of related agricultural education programming with the departments.
- **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. The standards will be developed by public institutions through their work on the existing Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.
- **Section 2603-B Powers and Duties of the Board:** Changes the time frames for the adoption of state master plans for higher education and basic education from every five years to every ten years.

These sections become effective immediately upon the bill becoming law, except for the amendment of sections 1549 and 1549.1, which will take effect 60 days from enactment.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate stands in recess until Monday, November 13, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House stands adjourned until Monday, November 13, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

Looking ahead, the House and Senate Education Committees are scheduled to hold an informational hearing on Wednesday, November 15, at 9:30 a.m. on the State System's strategic review. Executive Vice Chancellor Peter Garland will represent the System at the hearing. National Center for Higher Education Management Systems' President Sally Johnstone will also participate.

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 118](#) Amends the Administrative Code implementing the 2017-18 budget & instituting future budget implementation; for administrative organization; providing for alternative judicial administration; and making related repeals. Last Action: 11-3-17 G Last day for Governor's action

[HB 178](#) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for Keystone Exams & ESSA State plan review; for financial recovery; for professional employees; for certification; for funding & reimbursements; & changes. Last Action: 11-5-17 G Last day for Governor's action

[HB 542](#) Amends the Tax Reform Code further providing for imposition of tax & for exclusions from tax; repealing provisions; for corporate net income tax; for realty tax transfer tax; for tobacco master settlement payment revenue bonds; & changes. Last Action: 11- 4-17 G Last day for Governor's action

[HB 674](#) Amends the Fiscal Code implementing the 2017-18 Commonwealth budget & instituting future budget implementation; repealing provisions; making an editorial change; and making related repeals. Last Action: 11-4-17 G Last day for Governor's action

[HB 785](#) Amends the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act, in capital facilities, further providing for bonds & notes, maturity, interest, for appropriation & limitation on projects; providing for capital budgets. Last Action: 11-5-17 G Last day for Governor's action

- [SB 326](#) Act appropriating \$230,436,000 to Penn State for general support and \$22,074,000 for the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Last Action: 10-27-17 Approved by the Governor (Act 12A)
- [SB 327](#) Act appropriating \$144,210,000 to the University of Pittsburgh for general support and \$2,763,000 for rural education outreach. Last Action: 10-27-17 Approved by the Governor (Act 13A)
- [SB 328](#) Act appropriating \$150,586,000 to Temple University for general support. Last Action: 10-27-17 Approved by the Governor (Act 14A)
- [SB 329](#) Act appropriating \$14,436,000 to Lincoln University for general support. Last Action: 10-27-17 Approved by the Governor (Act 15A)
- [SB 651](#) Act providing for the capital budget for fiscal year 2017-2018. Last Action: 10-26-17 In the hands of the governor; 11-5-17 Last day for governor's action

Actions in the Senate:

- [HB 1448](#) Amends the School Code to require the Department of Education to make information available on its website about the College Navigator Website and High Priority Occupations; requires school entities to annually provide this information to high school students; and provides for the creation of a comparison search tool for institutions of higher education if the College Navigator Website is discontinued. Last Action: 10-25-17 S Re-referred to Senate Appropriations
- [SB 168](#) Creates the Public Employer Collective Bargaining Transparency Act to require all off'ers that are part of a collective bargaining agreement to be posted on the public employer's website before the agreement is signed. . Last Action: 10-25-17 S Laid on the table
- [SB 503](#) Amends Title 65 (Public Officers) to no longer allow a state or local agency to negotiate collective bargaining agreements during an executive session. Last Action: 10-25-17 S Laid on the table
- [SB 504](#) Amends the Right-to-Know Law to no longer allow a government entity and a union to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement without those negotiations being subject to the Law. Last Action: 10-25-17 S Laid on the table
- [SR 228](#) Establishes a Global Education Task Force via a concurrent resolution. The chancellor or designee of the State System would serve as a task force member. Last Action: 11-13-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Actions in the House:

- [HB 429](#) Amends the Public School Code, in high schools, further providing for courses of study by adding that a student who successfully completes a course in personal financial literacy during grades nine through twelve shall be permitted to apply up to

one credit earned for successful completion of the course to satisfy the student's social studies credit requirement for graduation. Last action: 10-24-17 Final passage (Y:124/ N:60)

[HB 1386](#)

Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels issued after December 31, 2021. The bill establishes grade spans for Early Childhood Education, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, Specialized areas and Special Education. The bill states the certificates issues remain valid for the term of the certificate. Last action: 10-24-17 Final passage (Y:173/ N:11)

[HB 1653](#)

Amends the Higher Education Scholarship Law to permanently provide for the permanent expansion of the Pennsylvania State Grant Program for students enrolled in distance education programs. Last action: 10-24-17 Final passage (Y:124/ N:60)

[SB 53](#)

Amends The Higher Education Scholarship Law further providing for eligibility for State scholarship. Last Action: 10-18-17 H Received in the House and referred to House Education

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.

Jennifer Hoover
Director of Governmental Relations
jhoover@passhe.edu
(717) 720-4021



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