



March 19, 2018

## Legislative UPDATE

### Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

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Over the last month, our [#Prepared4PA](#) advocacy campaign has been highlighting innovative programs and opportunities that prepare students to be PA's next generation of leaders in business, health, education, the arts, and beyond. It includes alumni who share their stories of how a State System education prepared them for success.

Support the campaign over the upcoming months by telling your story on social media (use our [#Prepared4PA](#) hashtag) or by following the State System on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Your stories best describe our collective value to the Commonwealth—you are the real face of PA. When we invest in our state universities, we invest in our state's future.

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#### Senate

### Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate convenes this week for three days of session, starting Monday afternoon at 1PM. There are no bills of interest as of yet on the chamber's floor calendar or committee voting schedule.

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#### 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 9, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

In session activity last week, the House approved [HB 153](#), legislation seeking to reduce the size of the General Assembly. The bill "originally sought to solely allow the people of Pennsylvania to decide whether or not the state House should be downsized from 203 to 151 members. It was amended in the House to extend that decision to the size of the state Senate. As amended, the people could also decide if the Senate should be reduced from 50 members to 38." [READ >>](#)

The chamber also advanced [HB 2121](#), legislation providing for the FY 2018-19 state budget, out of the House Appropriations Committee, positioning it for a vote on final passage by the House as early as its April 9th return. The bill in its current form would level-fund the State System, appropriating only \$453.1 million. The chamber's action only initiates the beginning of the budget process. As negotiations continue, the bill will be rewritten.

The State System is seeking a 2018-19 state appropriation of \$526.2 million, an increase of \$73 million over the current year's funding level. The increased funding is needed primarily to meet increases in both employee salaries and benefits that are part of various labor agreements and higher pension contributions mandated by the state. Gov. Wolf has recommended a \$15 million increase for the System next year. The new budget is required to be approved by June 30, to take effect July 1.

Also positioned for a final vote by the House is [HB 1527](#), legislation amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in child protective services, further providing for persons required to report suspected child abuse by stipulating a duty to report for a mandated reporter who witnesses an abusive act to an identifiable child.

In committee activity, [HB 2124](#), legislation requiring institutions of higher education to send annual letters to students with information on their student loan debt, on which the Office of the Chancellor discussed with the prime sponsor and committee staff, was reported by the House Commerce Committee as amended.

As amended, the requirements of the bill would be administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Education, establish a start date of September 2019, and limit loan information to only those loans disbursed by institutions of higher education.

The Office of the Chancellor is appreciative of the revisions to the bill and the sponsor's commitment to students. However, while supportive of the intentions for the legislation, the Office believes it is duplicative of requirements already in place, and students could be better educated about responsible borrowing by using existing federal student loan financial counseling and repayment estimators.

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## State System

# Bill Tracker Report

Tracking information is updated during legislative session weeks.

### Actions in the House:

#### [HB 1531](#)

Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, further providing for public notice and providing for notification of agency business required.  
Last Action: 03-13-18 H Passed over in committee House State Government

#### [HB 1846](#)

Amends the Breach of Personal Information Notification Act further providing for definitions, for notification of breach and for notice exemption. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Final Passage

#### [HB 1849](#)

Creates the Public Works Open Contracting Act providing for open contracting by the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions and their agencies and authorities, and establishes that a party who is aggrieved by an act committed by a public body in violation of prohibited practices or discrimination prohibited may file an action in a court of competent

jurisdiction to enjoin the act. 03-13-18 H Reported as amended by House State Government

- [HB 2077](#) 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, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations
- [HB 2086](#) Act making appropriations from the restricted revenue accounts within the State Gaming Fund & from the State Gaming Fund to PGCB, the Dept. of Revenue, PSP, & the Attorney General. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations
- [HB 2087](#) Supplement to the act to accept grant of Public Lands, by the US, to several states, for endowment of Agricultural Colleges making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; & providing for basis for payments of appropriation. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations
- [HB 2088](#) Supplement to the University of Pittsburgh - Commonwealth Act making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; & providing for a basis for payments, for method of accounting & for certain fiscal information disclosure. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations
- [HB 2089](#) Supplement to the Temple University - Commonwealth Act making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments; for method of accounting & for certain fiscal information disclosure. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations
- [HB 2090](#) Supplement to the Lincoln University - Commonwealth Act making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; & providing for a basis for payments, for method of accounting & for certain fiscal information disclosure. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations
- [HB 2091](#) Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations
- [HB 2111](#) Amends Title 65 (Public Offices), in open meetings, further providing for executive sessions. Last Action: 02-26-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government
- [HB 2115](#) Amends the Community & Economic Development Enhancement Act, in transfers of functions; transferring function, duties & entities to DCED; providing for State Apprenticeship & Training Council; providing for membership to the council. Last Action: 03-16-18 H Filed
- [HB 2121](#) 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, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Rereferred to House Appropriations
- [HB 2139](#) Act providing for the capital budget for fiscal year 2018-2019. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

[HB 2140](#) Act providing for the capital budget for fiscal year 2018-2019; itemizing public improvement projects; authorizing the incurring of debt; authorizing the use of current revenue; and making appropriations. Last Action: 03-13-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

**Co-sponsor Memos:**

[HCO3076](#) Amends the Sunshine Law to exempt agency discussions of security and emergency preparedness from open meetings requirements. Last Action: 03-12-18 H Filed

[HCO3079](#) Establishes the Keystone Scholars Program, which will create a PA 529 post-secondary education account for every newborn Pennsylvanian, beginning with those born on or after January 1, 2019. Last Action: 03-12-18 H Filed

[HCO3080](#) Provides \$15 million to support the modernization of career and technical education through the establishment or enhancement of programs that prepare students for high-skill careers. Last Action: 03-12-18 H Filed

[HCO3092](#) Promotes transparency and accountability in Pennsylvania's state-related institutions. Last Action: 03-14-18 H Filed

[HCO3098](#) Modernizes Pennsylvania's Separations Act by spelling out the delivery systems from which a public owner can choose. Last Action: 03-16-18 H Filed

[HCO3102](#) Requires postsecondary institutions to adopt affirmative consent standards for responding to allegations of sexual violence. Last Action: 03-16-18 H 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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