



June 18, 2018

## Legislative UPDATE

### Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

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Both chambers of the General Assembly are in session this week. In addition to budget talk, it is anticipated discussions will focus on legislative redistricting, school/public safety, as well as reducing the size of the Legislature.

Even as budget-related activity increases, there is still time to act in support of your university and the State System as a whole. Send a quick message to your legislators on social media.

[CLICK HERE](#) to use our online advocacy tool to convey a very important message. That is, the State System is providing Pennsylvania's families with what matters most--affordability and access--as well as opportunities that prepare students for success in their lives and careers, and the state's investment is necessary to make this possible! Include hashtag #Prepared4PA.

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#### Senate

### Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate gavel into session today at 1:00 p.m., and convenes again Tuesday and Wednesday.

The executive nominations of Mr. Rodney Kaplan (West Chester) and Mr. Joar Dahn (Bloomsburg), who have been nominated to fill the open student seats on the System's Board of Governors, remain on the Executive Nominations Calendar.

Bills of interest that could see action this week in the Senate include:

#### [HB 126](#)

Creates the Epinephrine Auto-Injector Entity Act, providing that a health care practitioner with prescriptive authority may prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of an authorized entity. An authorized entity is defined as an entity or organization at which allergens capable of causing anaphylaxis may be present, including, but not limited to: colleges and universities. Also requires completed training by employees of eligible

institutions before administration and provides Good Samaritan protections; training may be conducted by a health care practitioner employed or contracted by an authorized entity.

#### [HB 2124](#)

Amends the Public School Code to require institutions of higher education to provide information regarding education loan debt to their students.

As amended last week by the Senate Education Committee, the legislation establishes that an institution of higher education that receives Federal education loan information or other student loan information regarding a student enrolled at the institution shall provide the following to the student on an annual basis at a time determined by the school, but no later than July 1 each year:

- an estimate of the total amount of Federal education loans or other student loans which are disbursed by the institution of higher education taken out by the students;
- total payoff amount of the Federal education loans and other student loans incurred by the student enrolled at the institution of higher education;
- monthly repayment amounts; and number of years used in determining the potential payoff amount; information on how the student can access online repayment calculators.

The information provided to the student may include a statement that any estimate or range provided is general in nature and not intended to be a guarantee or promise of an actual projected amount. The statement may include a disclaimer that the information provided pertains only to federal loans disbursed at the institution that is providing the information or any loans disbursed directly from the institution.

Even as amended, the Office of the Chancellor remains concerned about the adverse impact of the bill on student borrowers. Education loan debt letters, as required by the legislation, would be duplicative of current financial literacy efforts and provide incomplete or contradictory loan information that may mislead and/or cause students and their families confusion.

A worthy investment in counseling, mentoring, and financial literacy courses before, during, and after college would have a far greater impact on student borrowing, and could equip students with the necessary tools to make important decisions during the college period and beyond. In contrast, HB 2124, while well-intended, would increase administrative burden, taking valuable time away from students and other financial literacy efforts—and cost the State System \$1.4 million to implement and administer.

In committee activity this week, the Senate Labor and Industry Committee meets today to consider legislation establishing the Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council:

An Act establishing the Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council, providing for the powers and duties of the Council and tasking it with developing a plan to improve the Commonwealth's career readiness preparation system. Comprised of the Governor and other cabinet officials; legislative members; and appointed representatives from the business, labor, life-sciences, manufacturing, energy, workforce, and education communities, including one president of a State System university who would be appointed by the Governor from a list of qualified presidents recommended by the Chancellor, the council would produce an annual report to the General Assembly, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House detailing their progress made including recommendations.

#### [SB 714](#)

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## House of Representatives

# Session & Committee Activity

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

The House convenes Monday through Thursday. The following bills of interest are on

the chamber's Voting Calendar:

[HB 1531](#) Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, require a public agency to post a public meeting agenda on the Internet no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting, and to post and make the agenda available at the location of the meeting. Last action: 06-06-18 H Voted as amended by House State Government.

[HB 2248](#) Provides that \$100 be set aside within the Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program Fund, when the fund is in excess of five percent of the actuarially determined liabilities of the fund, for each child born in Pennsylvania to be used for qualified higher education expenses associated with the attendance at an eligible educational institution.

[SB 1090](#) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in offenses involving danger to the person, providing for antihazing and prescribing penalties; in forfeiture of assets, further providing for asset forfeiture; and making a related repeal. The bill adds a chapter to Title 18 on antihazing, defines the offense of hazing, and provides for aggravated hazing, organizational hazing, and institutional hazing. Institutions and secondary schools shall adopt policies against hazing and appropriate penalties for hazing. Title 42 is amended to provide for asset forfeiture for organizational hazing.

The House Education Committee meets Tuesday to consider:

[HB 1745](#) Creates the Fostering Independence Through Education Act, establishing a tuition and fee waiver program for youth in substitute care and outlines eligibility. The bill also provides for the duties of Department of Human Services, which include collecting information obtained from all state postsecondary educational institutions and preparing a report on the effectiveness of the program to be submitted annually to the General Assembly.

The Office of the Chancellor has previously communicated concerns about the potential impact of the proposed program, sharing that a misaligned, unfunded tuition and fee waiver program could increase administrative and fiscal burden on the System's 14 universities—especially if the college-going rate of foster youth increases.

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## Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

### In the Senate:

[SB 1206](#) Amends the Public School Code, in the State System of Higher Education, further providing for definitions, for establishment of the State System of Higher Education and its institutions, providing for treatment of funds other than State-appropriated funds, further providing for purposes and general powers, for project contracts, for the chancellor, for powers and duties of the Board of Governors, for powers and duties of councils of trustees, for power and duties of institution presidents, for annual audit and for annual report. The bill establishes that the regulatory powers conferred by law on the State Board of Education that apply to the system and its individual institutions shall not include any regulatory power or ability to mandate reporting on supplemental funds. It also states as successor institutions to the State Normal Schools, State-appropriated funds for their operation are ordinary expenses of government, requiring

only a majority vote of each House of the General Assembly and further, are funds of the system that are subject to the regulatory powers of the State Board of Education and are to comply with any law of the Commonwealth required due to the establishment of the system as a public corporation and government instrumentality. Last Action: 06-12-18 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

**In the House:**

[HB 2209](#) Creates the Lean State Government Act, providing for duties of Department of the Auditor General; establishing a performance audit pilot program; and providing for initial performance audit of State agencies, for continuing performance audits of State agencies, for duties of State agencies and for progress report by State agencies. 06-13-18 H Reported as amended House State Government Committee

[HB 2492](#) Amends the Public School Code adding an article providing for threat assessment. Each public institution of higher education is required to have in place policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on campus, including assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the campus community. "Public institution of higher education" includes a community college or an institution which is part of the State System of Higher Education. Last Action: 06-14-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

[HB 2512](#) Amends the Public School Code requiring the Department of Education to develop a certificate for school social workers. Last Action: 06-15-18 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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