



June 25, 2018

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

The General Assembly on Friday passed the Commonwealth's 2018/19 spending plan, totaling \$32.7 billion. Governor Wolf subsequently signed [HB 2121](#) (General Appropriations). [READ MORE >>](#)

He also signed several Code bills implementing the FY 2018-19 state budget: [House Bills 1448](#) (School), [1677](#) (Human Services), and [1929](#) (Fiscal); HB 2078 – 2086 (Budget-Related), House Bills 2242 – 2246 (Non-Preferreds); House Bill 1851; House Bill 2477; and [Senate Bill 1142](#) (School Safety).

The State System is appreciative of the Governor and the General Assembly for the increased investment in the State System, and we thank you for your tireless advocacy efforts on behalf of the System.

The Fiscal Year 2018-19 state budget includes \$468.1 million for the State System—a \$15 million (or 3.3%) increase. It also includes similar increases for the community colleges, state-related universities, and private universities (through PHEAA's Institutional Assistance Grants); PHEAA's state grant program remains level-funded.

As approved by the governor, the [School Code](#) bill includes two provisions of interest:

- **Section 1204.2. Vocational Education Instructional Certificates** – Changes to this section concern requirements for Vocational Intern, Vocational I, and Vocational II certificates. For Vocational Interns the State Board of Education must require at least four years of wage-earning experience in the occupation to be taught, in addition to other requirements currently in regulation. Vocational I certificates will require an applicant to have completed not more than 18 credit hours in an approved program of vocational teacher education, and will entitle the individual to teach for eight annual school terms. Vocational II certificates shall require an applicant to have completed not more than 60 credit hours in an approved program of vocational teacher education, including the 18 credit hours necessary for the Vocational I certificate. It also requires the Department of Education to form a professional advisory committee to review vocational instructional certification program guidelines every five years to ensure the requirements for program design and delivery pertain to the professional responsibilities of a vocational educator.
- **Article XX-H. Higher Education Accountability and Transparency** - Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to make available at a single location on its website, links to the federal government's College Navigator Website and the Department of Labor and Industry's High Priority Occupations website. In addition, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency must include a link on its website to this page on the PDE website, and school entities must provide this information to students in grades nine through twelve. The

remainder of the new article details the required contents of an internet search tool that allows an individual to compare institutions of higher education that meet certain criteria selected by the individual, including the offering of a particular major or program of study. It will be the duty of PDE to create this internet search tool only if the United States Department of Education (USDOE) discontinues the publication of the College Navigator website, which is currently required by federal statute.

The provisions of the [Fiscal Code](#) bill include:

- **Section 312 (Keystone Scholars Grant Program)** - Creates the Keystone Scholars Grant Program account within the Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program Fund. At the end of each fiscal year, all funds in excess of 10% of the actuarially determined liability shall be transferred to the account. The transfer shall not exceed an amount equal to \$100 per child born in the Commonwealth in the fiscal year. An enrolled child will be eligible for a grant equaling \$100, plus the investment earnings since the child's birth for qualified higher education expenses at an eligible education institution.
- **Section 1738-H. (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency)** - Requires PHEAA to allocate \$500,000 from the Higher Education Assistance Fund for the Cheyney University Keystone Academy. From funds appropriated for payment of education assistance grants, \$500,000 will also be allocated to Mansfield University for merit scholarships.

The school safety bill, [SB 1142](#), establishes a new article within the Public School Code, creating a School Safety and Security Grant Program to which \$60 million will be allocated. Under the program, schools (including institutions of higher education) may seek grants to pay for any of 22 specific school safety initiatives. No entity may receive more than 10% of the funds available for the Program. Grants must be allocated no later than October 31, 2019, and each October 31 thereafter.

In other legislation, [HB 126](#), provides 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. This bill requires a concurrence vote in the House before advancing the governor for his consideration.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate stands in recess until the call of the President Pro Tempore.

The executive nominations of Mr. Rodney Kaplan (West Chester) and Mr. Joar Dahn (Bloomsburg), have been confirmed by the Senate. Kaplan and Dahn join fellow student Brian Swatt, president of the Student Government Association at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. [READ MORE >>](#)

Looking ahead, unless the chamber returns to session sooner, the fall session schedule is as follows:

<u>September</u>	24, 25, 26
<u>October</u>	1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17
<u>November</u>	14

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House is scheduled to resume session today at 1 p.m. to consider a gun-control bill and a bridge designation. Upon completion of its legislative work, the chamber could adjourn for summer recess.

The following bill of interest remains on the House Voting Calendar:

[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.

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

In the Senate:

[HB 1745](#) Creates the Fostering Independence Through Education Act, establishing a tuition and fee waiver program for youth who are or were in foster care. In addition to being current or former foster care children, there is an age qualification of at least 14 years of age but under 26 years of age. Participants must also be PA residents who have graduated from high school or another equivalent approved by the Department of Education (PDE), and have been accepted for admission to, or be currently attending, a state postsecondary educational institution. Participants must also apply for all available Federal and State grants. Last Action: 06-22-18 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Education

[SB 714](#) Establishes 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. Last Action: 06-22-18 S Set on the Senate Calendar

In the House:

[HB 126](#) Provides for the use of epinephrine auto-injectors by certain entities and organizations; and conferring powers and imposing duties on the

Department of Health.. 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. Last Action: 06-22-18 S Final Passage

[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: 06-25-18 H Set on the House Calendar

[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. Last Action: 06-13-18 H Rereferred to House Rules

[HB 2512](#)

Amends the Public School Code requiring the Department of Education to develop a certificate for school social workers. Last Action: 06-18-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

Co-sponsorship memos:

[HCO3521](#)

Provides student loan forgiveness awards for the purpose of attracting workers to be employed in PA by a certified child welfare employer. Last Action: 06-19-18 H Filed

[HCO3540](#)

Centralizes the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors. Last Action: 06-20-18 H Filed

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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