



October 9, 2018

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

Only the House is in session this week. After this week, both chambers are scheduled to be in session Oct. 15 through Oct. 17--the last days of the voting session until adjournment sine die, unless extended by either chamber.

"Some items to watch during the next few days in the state House of Representatives include bills to...provide high school students with alternative high school graduation pathways;...address and prevent hazing; allow local school districts and governments to discuss school security matters in executive session, which is not open to the public;.. all of these bills have a chance at heading to the governor's desk by Oct. 17," according to **Capitolwire**.

"The House may also move forward with [legislation](#) that would require public employers/public sector unions to provide notification to public employees (or job applicants), who are not members of their representative union, of their rights under the United States Supreme Court's decision in Janus v. AFSME Council 31." *See House committee activity.*

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate stands in recess until Monday, October 15, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.,

FLOOR ACTIVITY

Next week, the chamber could consider some or all of these bills of interest, as well as trustee [nominations](#) which require Senate confirmation.

[HB 1527](#) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in child protective services, further providing for persons required to report suspected child abuse.

[HB 2124](#) Requires schools of higher education communicate certain loan information to students annually.

Consideration of these bills could occur as soon as fiscal notes are provided by the Senate Appropriations Committee:

[HB 1745](#) An Act providing for a tuition and fee waiver program for youth who are or have been in substitute care.

[HB 2158](#) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for career information and recruitment.

[HB 2159](#) Amends Article XX-C, Transfers of Credits Between Institutions of Higher Education, to expand an online database of articulation agreements.

[SB 714](#) Creates the Pennsylvania Career Readiness Council Act tasked with improving the transition from school to the workforce and addressing industry needs.

[SB 1259](#) An Act authorizing DGS & East Stroudsburg University, with approval of the Governor, to grant & convey to East Stroudsburg Borough, a certain permanent public sanitary sewer easement & public water supply easement in East Stroudsburg Borough.

In floor activity last week, the Senate amended [SB 1073](#), legislation amending the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law, known as the Heart & Lung Act, by extending benefits to certain law enforcement officers and investigators. As amended on the Senate floor by the bill sponsor, these benefits would extend to campus police employed by a “participating university.” To participate, a State System university, community college, or State-related university may submit a notice to the Department of Labor and Industry; election shall be irrevocable after participation.

The bill has since been referred to the House Labor and Industry Committee to which the Office of the Chancellor has recommended the bill be further clarified that the participation election (or non-election) would be on a System-wide basis, not by university.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House is scheduled to be in session Tuesday through Thursday, beginning today at 11 a.m.

FLOOR ACTIVITY

Today, on third consideration and final passage, the chamber is expected to consider:

[HB 1822](#) Establishes a certification process and standards for those schools which elect to become a Certified Suicide Prevention Institution of Higher Education. Through the Pennsylvania Department of Education, institutions would be recognized for their commitment to providing

students with information and services to meet their mental health needs and to assist in the event a student experiences a mental health crisis.

[SB 1090](#)

Adds a new chapter to the Crimes Code 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. Also provides for purchase, consumption, possession or transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverages and for safe harbor for violations of section 6308 (a) relating to attempts to purchase, consume, possess or knowingly and intentionally transport any liquor or malt or brewed beverages. Title 42 is amended to provide for asset forfeiture for organizational hazing. *If passed, the bill will be returned to the Senate for concurrence in House amendments.*

[SB 1095](#)

Amends the Public School Code to provide alternative pathways to fulfill graduation requirements. *If passed, the bill will be returned to the Senate for concurrence in House amendments.*

These bills could also advance to a final vote this week in the House:

[HB 2571](#)

Amends the Public Employe Relations Act adding language requiring a public employer to notify a nonmember in writing that there is no statutory obligation by nonmembers to make any payments to an employee organization that serves as the nonmember's exclusive representative. Provides for the content of the notification. Further provides for notification to a new public employee. Also prohibits a public employer from collecting through wage deduction any form of payment from a nonmember to an employee organization.

[SB 1078](#)

Amends Title 65 (Public Officers) to allow state and local agencies to discuss security measures during executive session.

The chamber is also expected to concur in Senate amendments to [HB 1386](#), legislation modifying the levels of special education and early childhood certificates by grade span and age. If concurred upon by the House, and after receiving signatures in both chambers, the legislation will advance to the governor's desk for his consideration.

Special education certificates issued after December 31, 2021, shall be for prekindergarten through grade 12, or up to age 21. Existing special education certificates would remain valid for the term of the certificate. An individual presently holding a special education certificate may expand the scope of his or certificate to meet the revised grade spans and age levels by a process determined by Pennsylvania's Department of Education (PDE).

An individual holding an early childhood education certificate may extend the grade span of his or her certificate to include grades five and six by obtaining a qualifying score on an assessment provided by the department. PDE would be required to include and maintain on its website notice of the availability of the assessment with information describing certification requirements. The department is also required to create a form to notify individuals seeking early childhood certification that they may extend their certification by attaining qualifying scores on the assessment.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The **House State Government Committee** meets today at 10 a.m. to consider [HB 1623](#), legislation that would amend the Public Employe Relations Act, in representation, further providing for exclusive representation; and making related repeals. The bill would establish that representatives selected by public employees in a unit appropriate for collective bargaining purposes shall be the exclusive representative of "the unit's members" to bargain on wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment.

House Finance also meets at 10 a.m. It will consider [HB 2678](#), legislation that would amend the

Administrative Code repealing provisions relating to employees with access to Federal tax information. It would add a new section requiring a state agency to require any current or prospective employee or contractor whose duties and responsibilities require access to Federal tax information to submit a criminal history background check to be conducted by the Pennsylvania State Police.

On Wednesday, **House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness** will take up [HB 2696](#), legislation that would extend Educational Assistance Grants to the dependents of National Guard members. A spouse may use this full-time, part-time assistance grant for no more than five academic years and must begin their studies no later than five years after their spouse's release from initial enlistment. Upon transferring this eligibility to their spouse, the member must serve two more years in the National Guard. In the case of reserving educational benefits for children, ten years of service is required, and the member must serve another four years once the grant money has been given to the child, by the age of 26. In most instances, the grant money would be equal to the cost of tuition at the highest-priced State System university, for full-time and part-time studies.

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

In the Senate:

[HB 126](#) Expands the availability of EpiPens by permitting entities such as summer camps, colleges and universities, restaurants, amusement parks, sport facilities, daycares and other facilities to have non-patient specific epinephrine auto-injectors in their facilities. *10-02-18 S Senate concurred in House amendments to Senate amendments (Vote Y: 48/N: 0).*

[SR 292](#) A Resolution directing the JSGC to study the issue of immunization policies for students at institutions of higher ed., conduct an analysis of compliance, examine the need for updating policies & report findings & recommendations to the Senate. *10-02-18 S Adopted by voice vote.*

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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