



January 28, 2019

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

Governor Wolf's Swearing-In Ceremony took place Tuesday, January 15th, at noon, outside of the East Wing of the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building. [Continue reading...](#)

One of his first responsibilities will be to deliver his February 5th budget address before a joint session of the Legislature. A three-week process of budget hearings will begin thereafter, with the State System appearing before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on February 12th and 22nd, respectively. A complete list of budget hearings is available. [CLICK HERE](#) for the House budget hearing schedule. [CLICK HERE](#) for the Senate budget hearing schedule.

Related to budget hearings, "[t]he Performance-Based Budget (PBB) Board met in the state Capitol [last week] to review and vote on reports prepared by the state Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) looking at the relationships between program funding levels and expected results from that program," reports **Capitolwire**.

Board chair "Browne is joined on the board by Sen. Vince Hughes, D-Philadelphia, who is the board's vice-chair as well as the minority chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Reps. Stan Saylor, R-York, and Matthew Bradford, D-Montgomery - the majority and minority chairs of the House Appropriations Committee, respectively - and Budget Secretary Jen Swails."

"Established as part of [Act 48 of 2017](#), the IFO is required to do these reviews of all agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction and all state tax credit programs at least once every five years."

In other activity, Chancellor Dan Greenstein last Wednesday delivered his first State of the System address, announcing that the State System "will transform itself, with the member universities working more closely together to expand educational opportunities for students while reducing the costs with which they operate..." [Continue reading...](#)

"Marking a new vision for the state's 14 public universities, Governor Tom Wolf...celebrated the swearing-in of [Chancellor] Greenstein as the fifth chancellor..." [Continue reading...](#)

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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The chamber stands in recess until 1:00 p.m. today, and is expected to convene again Tuesday and Wednesday.

Committee assignments for 22 [Senate Standing Committees](#) for the 2019-2020 legislative session have been announced. Assignments for the Appropriations and Education Committees are as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS

Majority

- Browne, Chair
- K. Ward, Vice Chair
- Argall
- Aument
- Killion
- Langerholc
- Laughlin
- Martin
- Mensch
- Phillips-Hill (F)
- Scavello
- Vogel
- Yaw
- Corman, ex-officio

Minority

- Hughes, Chair
- Schwank, Vice Chair
- Blake
- Collett (F)
- Haywood
- Leach
- Santarsiero (F)
- Street
- Costa, ex-officio

EDUCATION

Majority

- Aument, Chair
- DiSanto, Vice Chair
- Browne
- Corman
- Folmer
- Tomlinson
- Scarnati, ex-officio

Minority

- Dinniman, Chair
- Brewster
- Leach
- L. Williams (F)

(F)= Freshman

There are no committee meetings of interest scheduled.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House likewise convenes today at 1 p.m., and again tomorrow and Wednesday.

It is anticipated standing committee assignments will be announced this week. Committee chairs were named earlier this month.

Rep. Stan Saylor (R-York) continues as majority chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Rep. Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery) replaces former Rep. Joe Markosek as the minority chair of the committee.

Rep. Curt Sonney (R-Erie) will serve as majority chairman of the Pennsylvania House Education Committee for the 2019-20 Legislative Session. Rep. Jim Roebuck continues as minority chair of the House Education Committee.

No meetings are scheduled as of yet, except for a few House Democratic Policy Committee meetings.

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

In the House:

[HB 90](#) Grove, Seth: Amends Title 72, providing for Commonwealth capital improvement plans, for duties of State agencies, for debt limit for capital projects, for prohibition on exceeding debt limit for capital projects and for legislative oversight. **Last Action:** 01-17-19 H Filed

[HB 92](#) Grove, Seth: Amends Title 72, providing for budgetary procedures; and establishing the Joint Revenue Estimation Committee. **Last Action:** 01-17-19 H Filed

[HB 93](#) Grove, Seth: Amends Title 72, providing for preliminary provisions; for taxation; and for fiscal affairs and for Commonwealth budget procedures; establishing the Joint Revenue Estimation Committee and the Performance-based Incentive Account; and repeals. **Last Action:** 01-17-19 H Filed

[HB 104](#) Ryan, Frank: Amends the PA Prevailing Wage Act, further providing for definitions. **Last Action:** 01-22-19 H Filed

[HB 182](#) Quinn, Chris: Amends the Administrative Code, in Commonwealth budget procedures, providing for general appropriation bill compensation suspension. **Last Action:** 01-24-19 H Filed

[HB 191](#) Cruz, Angel: Amends the Institutions of Purely Public Charities Act, further providing for definitions, for State-related universities and for criteria for institutions of purely public charity. **Last**

Action: 01-24-19 H Filed

HB 232 Deasy, Daniel: Act providing for community college educational assistance. **Last Action:** 01-25-19 H Filed

In the Senate:

SB 64 Ward, Judy: Amends the Police Officer, Firefighter, Correction Employee and National Guard Member Child Beneficiary Act, extending benefits to certain surviving spouses; & for Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program, for report & retroactivity. **Last Action:** 01-14-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 65 Ward, Judy: Act establishing a tuition credit program for certain members of volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance services and volunteer rescue squads and their dependent children and spouses. **Last Action:** 01-14-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

Co-sponsorship Memos:

HCO 727 Ryan, Frank: Exempts political subdivisions and their authorities, agencies, or instrumentalities from the Prevailing Wage Act. **Last Action:** 01-15-19 H Filed

HCO 729 Ryan, Frank: Restricts government entities from entering into interest rate management agreements. **Last Action:** 01-15-19 H Filed

HCO 789 Keller, Fred: Prohibits social security numbers and home addresses of public sector employees from being proper subjects of collective bargaining. **Last Action:** 01-17-19 H Filed

HCO 800 Keller, Fred: Updates the threshold of the Prevailing Wage Act for the effects of inflation. **Last Action:** 01-17-19 H Filed

HCO 880 Miller, Brett: Clarifies the language of the Right-to-Know Law in regard to personal financial information and public funds. **Last Action:** 01-25-19 H Filed

HCO 897 Benninghoff, Kerry: Brings greater transparency to the records of our state-related universities. **Last Action:** 01-25-19 H Filed

SCO 508 Yaw, Gene: Raises the threshold of the Prevailing Wage Act from \$25,000 to \$185,000. **Last Action:** 01-23-19 S 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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