



March 25, 2019

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

Both chambers convene in session this final week of March. On Wednesday, both the House and Senate will wrap up their voting, taking a recess until the week of April 9th. Heading into subsequent weeks, the chambers' voting calendars are expected to become more robust as is their discussion and negotiation around a FY 2019-20 General Fund Budget.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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The chamber convenes today at 1:00 p.m.

The following appropriations-related bills are positioned for possible floor votes, should they be re-reported this week from the Senate Appropriations Committees. Last week they were unanimously reported as committed but have since been re-referred to the committee for a second time. These bills, as currently written, would level-fund the State System and state-related institutions. They could yet, however, be amended during the ongoing budget process to provide for increased state funding.

- [SB 234](#) (Browne): An 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, 2019 to June 30, 2020.
- [SB 244](#) (Browne): 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.
- [SB 245](#) (Browne): 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.

- [SB 246](#) (Browne): 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.
- [SB 247](#) (Browne): 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.
- [SB 248](#) (Browne): An Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Additionally, the chamber could consider these bills that passed out of committee last week:

- [SB 439](#) (Regan): Amends the Enforcement Office Disability Benefits Law (the Heart and Lung Act) further providing for disability benefits and for definitions to include entities not currently protected under the act, i.e., campus police officers employed by a participating university. Provides that any payments required to be made on account of any campus police officers employed by a State-owned university, State-aided university, community college or State-related college or university shall be made from moneys appropriated to the State-owned university, State-aided university, community college or State-related college or university. Last session, similar legislation, SB 1073 was unanimously passed by the Senate.
- [SR 34](#) (Dinniman): A concurrent Resolution establishing a Global Education Task Force. The chancellor of the State System would hold a seat on this task force. Last session, SR 228 was unanimously passed by the Senate.

This morning at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee will hold a public hearing on the conversion of military credentials into professional certifications. Dr. Cory Shay of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Director Military and Veterans Resource Center and Co-Chair PASSHE Veterans Advisory Network, will offer remarks on behalf of the State System.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House also convenes at 1:00 p.m. The chamber's voting calendar includes consideration of:

- [HB 785](#) (Klunk): Amends the Public Employee Relations Act, further providing for definitions; in employee rights, providing for payments to employee organizations; and making related repeals. The bill establishes that a public employer shall notify a nonmember in writing that there is no statutory obligation by nonmembers to make any payments to the employee organization that serves as the nonmember's exclusive representative. Last Monday, the House Labor and Industry Committee voted the bill along party lines.

This afternoon, at 2:30 p.m., House Republican leadership will hold a press conference highlighting the impact of a multi-bill workforce development package recently passed by House (*see Bill Tracking Report*).

Tuesday morning, the House Commerce Committee meets at 9:30 a.m. for the purposes of holding an informational meeting on DCED Workforce programs.

The House and Senate Democratic Policy Committees will also meet at 9:30 a.m., holding a joint public hearing on college affordability and the Pennsylvania Promise Act introduced by Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia) and state Reps. Jim Roebuck and Jordan Harris (both D-Philadelphia). Testifiers will include: Ken Mash, president, Association of Pennsylvania College and University Faculties; Mark Price, Labor Economist, Keystone Research Center; Nichole Duffy, Vice President of Government Relations, Association of Private Colleges and Universities; and Angel Hart Funk, a senior at California University of Pennsylvania.

Also on Tuesday, the House State Government Committee will meet to consider two Right-to-Know Law bills:

- [HB 283](#) (Simmons): Amends the Right-to-Know Law, defining "commercial purpose"; in procedure, further providing for written requests; and, in judicial review, further providing for fee limitations. A written request for the duplication of a record shall include a statement indicating whether or not the requester intends to use the record for a commercial purpose. In responding to a request for records that will be used for a commercial purpose, an agency may charge a requester additional standard fees for the search, review and duplication of the records. The fees for records to be used for a commercial purpose must be reasonable, must be approved by the Office of Open Records and may not be established with the intent or effect of excluding persons from access to records or duplicates thereof or of creating profit for the agency.
- [HB 860](#) (Miller): Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in preliminary provisions, further providing for the definition of "personal financial information"; and, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records. The bill exempts access to the number, names and ages of an employee's children and does not prevent the disclosure of employer costs or aggregated data of employee costs related to retirement benefits, health care benefits or other benefits, the disclosure of options made available to employees regarding retirement, health care benefits or other benefits or the disclosure of options made available to employees regarding retirement, health care and other benefit plans. Certain financial information may be redacted to the extent necessary to protect the security of the agency's account information, account numbers, routing numbers, credit card numbers or PIN numbers.

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

In the House:

[HB 138](#) (Quinn): Amends the Physical Therapy Practice Act further providing for qualifications for license and examinations for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. The bill establishes that an applicant who is 90 days from completing the professional study of physical therapy may sit for the examination if the applicant verifies with the board that the applicant is 90 days from graduating from an accredited program as determined by the board. *Last Action:* 03-20-19 H Final Passage (193-0)

[HB 265](#) (Staats): Expands the online database that allows students and potential students to check where courses, programs, certificates and diplomas are able to be transferred among public schools and institutions of higher education. *Last Action:* 03-19-19 H Final Passage (195-0)

[HB 297](#) (Mako): Requires the Department of Education to develop materials outlining workforce needs including training opportunities and future earning potential. *Last Action:* 03-20-19 H Final Passage (193-1)

[HB 393](#) (Harkins): Creates an online career resource center. *Last Action:* 03-20-19 H Final Passage (194-0)

[HB 394](#) (Mullery): Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to create an inventory of workforce development programs offered at secondary and post-secondary institutions. *Last Action:* 03-19-19 H Final Passage (195-0)

[HB 395](#) (Roebuck): Requires CTE programs to establish occupational advisory committees. *Last Action:* 03-20-19 H Final Passage (194-0)

[HB 396](#) (Roebuck): Adds at least one administrator from a career and technical center to each Workforce Development Board. *Last Action:* 03-20-19 H Final Passage (194-0)

[HB 425](#) (Mackenzie): Creates the CareerBound Act and provides for school-to-work programs; establishes the CareerBound program; and imposes powers and duties on the Department of Labor and Industry. *Last Action:* 03-20-19 H Final Passage (192-1)

In the Senate:

[SB 448](#) (Aument): Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, further providing for executive sessions. *Last Action:* 03-19-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Government

[SB 449](#) (Martin): Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records. *Last Action:* 03-19-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Government

[SB 460](#) (Costa): Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records. *Last Action:* 03-21-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Government

Co-sponsorship Memos:

[HCO1606](#) (Frankel): Requires postsecondary institutions to offer online and anonymous options for reporting sexual assault. *Last Action:* 03-21-19 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.

Jennifer Hoover
Director of Governmental Relations
jhoover@passhe.edu
(717) 720-4021