



March 18, 2019

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

With both chambers in voting session this week, and House and Senate budget hearings completed, more attention will turn toward negotiating a FY 2019-20 state budget (see Senate activity below). A budget must be enacted by June 30th.

As that process unfolds so is the State System's planning process for achieving a sharing system. Attention will be focused on six areas, as identified by Chancellor Greenstein in his [March 14th blog](#):

- Modernizing the System's academic and operational infrastructures
- Retooling budgeting, investment, and performance management practices
- Supporting continuous improvement and strengthening organizational cultures
- Strengthening the System's governance
- Working creatively in partnership with the state and the business and education communities
- Restructuring the Chancellor's Office

[Read more about these six focus areas and critical next steps >>](#)

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The chamber is back in voting session this week. There are no bills of interest yet on the Senate voting calendar.

The Senate Appropriations Committee meets off the floor later today to advance budget-related bills; these bills, in their current form, would level-fund the State System and state-related institutions:

- [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.

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee also meets today and will consider:

- [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

The Senate Education Committee meets Tuesday to consider various bills, including:

- [SR 34](#) (Dinniman): Concurrent Resolution establishing a Global Education Task Force. The chancellor of the State System would hold a seat on this task force.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House convenes this week, starting today at 1:00 p.m. The chamber's voting calendar includes consideration of these workforce-related bills:

- [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

- [HB 297](#) (Mako): Requires the Department of Education to develop materials outlining workforce needs including training opportunities and future earning potential
- [HB 393](#) (Harkins): Creates an online career resource center
- [HB 394](#) (Mullery): Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to create an inventory of workforce development programs offered at secondary and post-secondary institutions
- [HB 395](#) (Roebuck): Requires CTE programs to establish occupational advisory committees
- [HB 396](#) (Roebuck): Adds at least one administrator from a career and technical center to each Workforce Development Board

Today the House Labor and Industry Committee meets to consider:

- [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.

Also today, House Human Services meets to consider:

- [HR 147](#) (Gregory): A Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive review of unused properties, buildings and facilities owned by the Commonwealth and to repurpose those for use as addiction treatment and recovery supports.

Last week, candidates Movita Johnson-Harrell (D-Philadelphia) and Bridget Malloy Kosierowski (D-Lackawanna) won special elections for districts 119 and 140, respectively.

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:* 03-13-19 H Reported as committed from House Professional Licensure

[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:* 03-13-19 H Reported as amended House Labor and Industry

[HB 790](#) (Staylor): 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. *Last Action:* 03-12-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

[HB 860](#) (Miller): Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions;

and, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records. *Last Action:* 03-14-19 H Filed

In the Senate:

[SB 404](#) (Baker): Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for general appropriation bill. *Last Action:* 03-11-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations

[SB 405](#) (Baker): Amends the Administrative Code, in Commonwealth budget procedures, providing for general appropriation bill timeline. *Last Action:* 03-11-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations

[SB 434](#) (Scavello): Act authorizing the Dept. of General Services and East Stroudsburg University, with the approval of the Governor, to grant & convey to East Stroudsburg Borough, a certain permanent public sanitary sewer easement and water supply system. *Last Action:* 03-12-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Government

Co-sponsorship Memos:

[HCO1478](#) (Ortitay): Breaks up the budget vote into individual votes on each agency's budget. *Last Action:* 03-11-19 H Filed

[HCO1492](#) (Burns): Protects in-state tuition for reassigned military families. *Last Action:* 03-12-19 H Filed

[HCO1495](#) (Briggs): Forms commission on higher education funding to review and make recommendations concerning higher education funding. *Last Action:* 03-13-19 H Filed

[SCO 674](#) (Browne): Establishes the Public Higher Education Funding Commission. *Last Action:* 03-11-19 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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