



March 10, 2019

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

2019-20 General Fund Budget hearings have concluded in both chambers.

Chancellor Dan Greenstein appeared before the House Appropriations and Senate Appropriations Committees on February 12th and February 21st, respectively. [CLICK HERE](#) for archived House video or [HERE](#) for Senate video.

In the House hearing, Chancellor Greenstein fielded questions about System Redesign Phase 2, now well underway. Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee discussed the need to reexamine the cost and mission of the System. Other topics included enrollment challenges, workforce alignment, and regulatory reforms.

During these hearings Chancellor Greenstein affirmed the System's commitment to the Commonwealth—providing students with access to high-value, in-demand programs that prepare them to meet Pennsylvania's employment needs, as well as prepare them for successful lives as contributing, responsible citizens. [Read more >>](#)

In the months ahead, the budget process and further negotiations will continue. A 2019-20 General Fund budget is due on June 30th.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The chamber stands in recess until March 18, at 1:00 p.m.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House returns to voting session today, 1:00 p.m., and will convene again Tuesday and Wednesday.

This morning, at 11:00 a.m., the House Education Committee will hold a voting meeting to consider a package of bills regarding career and technical education (CTE) in the Commonwealth. Bills to be voted:

- [HB 265](#): Expand 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](#): Requires the Department of Education to develop materials outlining workforce needs including training opportunities and future earning potential.
- [HB 334](#): Further provides for the Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence; and, codifies a pilot program relating to classification of instructional programs
- [HB 393](#): Creates an online career resource center
- [HB 394](#): Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to create an inventory of workforce development programs offered at secondary and post-secondary institutions
- [HB 395](#): Requires CTE programs to establish occupational advisory committees
- [HB 396](#): Adds at least one administrator from a career and technical center to each Workforce Development Board
- [HB 522](#): Creates a CTE investment incentive program, including tax credits for businesses that contribute to CTE programs and enrollment expansion programs

In related action, on Wednesday, the House Labor and Industry Committee will consider:

- [HB 425](#): 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.

Also on Wednesday, the House Professional Committee will vote on:

- [HB 138](#): 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.

Looking ahead, the House and Senate Democratic Policy Committees will hold a joint meeting on March 26th to discuss college affordability.

In review, the House Labor and Industry Committee recently received testimony on workforce development to identify policies and procedures to better align worker training and preparation programs with the needs of employers in an effort to enhance the success of workers seeking to enter or advance in the workforce. [Archived video >>](#)

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

In the House:

[HB 624](#) (Keller): Amends the Public Employee Relations Act, in definitions, stipulating that "maintenance membership" allows notification of resignation 45 days (changed from 15 days) prior to the expiration of such agreement. *Last Action:* 02-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

In the Senate:

[SB 295](#) (Baker): Act providing for the establishment of sexual harassment and sexual violence online reporting system by postsecondary institutions. ***Last Action:*** 02-14-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

[SB 296](#) (Baker): Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in ethics standards and financial disclosure, further providing for definitions, for restricted activities and for penalties. ***Last Action:*** 02-14-19 S Introduced and referred

[SR 34](#) (Dinniman): Concurrent Resolution establishing a Global Education Task Force. *Last Action:* 02-26-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

Co-sponsorship Memos:

[HCO1235](#) (Murt): Amends the School Code to grant Pennsylvania community colleges the authority to offer baccalaureate degrees under certain conditions pursuant to standards to be established by the State Board of Education. ***Last Action:*** 02-19-19 H Filed

[HCO1337](#) (Barrar): Includes a member of a National Guard's spouse or child in the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Education Program. ***Last Action:*** 02-26-19 H Filed

[HCO1382](#) (Bernstine): Three-bill package to promote transparency and accountability in the state-related institutions. ***Last Action:*** 03-01-19 H Filed

[HCO1413](#) (Knowles): Increases the transparency of public-sector union operations. *Last Action:* 03-05-19 H Filed

[HCO1423](#) (Longiotti): Establishes a temporary moratorium on program reviews of college teacher preparation programs by the Department of Education until after these programs are redesigned according to the mandates of Act 82 of 2018. *Last Action:* 03-06-19 H Filed

[SCO 613](#) (Regan): Establishes an education program for families of Pennsylvania National Guard members. *Last Action:* 02-27-19 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.

Jennifer Hoover
Director of Governmental Relations

jhoover@passhe.edu
(717) 720-4021