April 8, 2019

Legislative UPDATE
Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education

“Support for the State System is support for the future of Pennsylvania!”

That is the message more than 150 students, faculty, staff and alumni from the 14 universities that comprise Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education will personally deliver Wednesday when they meet with legislators and staff members in the Capitol. The visits are part of the System’s annual advocacy efforts, which also will include a mid-morning gathering on the steps of the Capitol’s main rotunda.

The message for legislators is simple, according to State System Chancellor Dan Greenstein: “We need your support to keep the State System the affordable, high-quality option that it is. It matters; it really does.”

Greenstein is among those scheduled to speak at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, in the rotunda. Other planned speakers are Clarion University President Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson; Bloomsburg University student Joar Dahn, who also serves on the State System’s Board of Governors; Mansfield University psychology professor Nicolle Mayo; and Highmark Vice President Michael Warfel, a Millersville University alumnus and trustee. READ MORE >>

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

The chamber convenes today at 1:00 p.m. The chamber will recess on Wednesday until April 29th.

These appropriations-related bills remain positioned for possible floor votes, should they be re-reported this week from the Senate Appropriations Committees. As currently written, these bills 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.

The Senate Calendar also continues to include these bills of interest, which unanimously passed the chamber last session:

- **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.

- **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.

In committee activity, the Senate Republican Policy Committee meets Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. to hold an informational hearing on higher education demographics. The hearing will include testimony provided by Nathan D. Grawe, a Professor of Economics at Carleton College. [WATCH LIVE >>](#)

The Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee recently held 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, offered remarks on behalf of the State System. Shay addressed how State System universities recognize veterans’ training and offer them credit for their military training and prior learning experiences; have policies and procedures in place to assist veterans succeed academically; and assist military families. [VIDEO >>](#)

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**House of Representatives**
The House convenes today at 1:00 p.m. It will adjourn on Wednesday and reconvene next Monday, April 15th.

The chamber's Floor Calendar continues to include this bill of interest:

- **HB 785** (Klunk): Amends the Public Employe 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.

The House is also expected to consider these child sex abuse statute-of-limitation bills upon which the House Judiciary Committee is scheduled to take action today. According to **Capitolwire**:

- **HB 962** (Rozzi): Removes both the civil and criminal statutes of limitation on child sex abuse cases and extend the cap in which victims can seek civil recourse against institutions and individuals to 55 years. The bill gives an individual “37 years after attaining 18 years of age in which to commence an action.”
- **HB 963** (Gregory): Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide a two-year window for alleged victims to file civil lawsuits against individuals and institutions concerning childhood sexual abuse. An amendment must be passed in two consecutive legislative sessions and approved in a statewide voter referendum to take effect.

During the previous session week, the House and Senate Democratic Policy Committees hosted 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).

The legislation (**Senate Bill 111** and **House Bill 244**) would cover tuition and fees for high school graduates with an annual family income of $110,000 or less who are attending one of Pennsylvania’s 14 community colleges, state-owned or state-related universities. Students with a family income of $48,000 or less would also be eligible for help with room and board. **READ MORE >>**

**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. **Last Action:** 03-28-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure

- **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: 03-28-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Education

HB 283 (Simmons): Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in procedure, further providing for written requests; and, in judicial review, further providing for fee limitations. Last Action: 03-26-2019 H Passed over in House State Government committee

HB 297 (Mako): Requires the Department of Education to develop materials outlining workforce needs including training opportunities and future earning potential. Last Action: 03-28-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Education

HB 393 (Harkins): Creates an online career resource center. Last Action: 03-28-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Education

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: 03-28-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Education

HB 395 (Roebuck): Requires CTE programs to establish occupational advisory committees. Last Action: 03-28-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Education

HB 396 (Roebuck): Adds at least one administrator from a career and technical center to each Workforce Development Board. Last Action: 03-28-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Labor and Industry

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: 03-28-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Labor and Industry

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: 04-08-19 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

HB 973 (Longietti): Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of department. Last Action: 03-26-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 978 (Hickernell): Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in access, further providing for requests; and, in procedure, further providing for redaction. Last Action: 03-26-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

HB 979 (Hickernell): Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, providing for theology courses. Last Action: 03-26-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 988 (Diamond): Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records. Last Action: 03-27-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

HB 993 (Briggs, Tim): Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, establishing the Higher Education Funding Commission and providing for its powers and duties. Last Action: 03-27-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 1050 (Burns): Amends an act conferring limited residency status on military personnel, their dependents and civilian personnel assigned to an active duty station in PA, further providing for residency of students. Last Action: 04-05-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness

HB 1066 (O’Neal): Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in professional & occupational licenses, further providing for definitions, providing for a policy for the award of academic credit for military training; and making editorial changes. Last Action: 04-05-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness
**HB 1069** (Bernstine): Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, further providing for public notice and providing for notification of agency business required and exceptions. *Last Action:* 04-05-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

**HR 127** (Roebuck): Resolution designating the week of March 25 through 29, 2019, as "Public Higher Education Affordability Week" in Pennsylvania. *Last Action:* 03-25-19 H Adopted (Vote: Y:196/N: 0)

**In the Senate:**

**SB 111** (Hughes): Act providing for the Promise Program and establishing the Promise Fund. *Last Action:* 03-26-19 S Discussed during public hearing - Senate Democratic Policy Committee

**Co-sponsorship Memos:**

**HCO1631** (Delozier): Reforms the state budget process by requiring annual reports to be provided by the administration on federal and state mandates that apply to appropriations, info about appropriations, and entitlements. *Last Action:* 03-25-19 H Filed

**HCO1664** (Davis, T): The PA Safe Campuses Act requires all post-secondary schools, colleges and universities in this Commonwealth to adopt policies and establish programs to make students, staff and officials aware of the risks of sexual assault and violence. *Last Action:* 03-27-19 H Filed

**HCO1666** (Hickernell): Fostering Independence Through Education Act assists children in foster care with the challenges of accessing higher educational opportunities and into family-sustaining careers. *Last Action:* 03-27-19 H Filed

**HCO1696** (Greiner): Prohibits public employers from deducting political contributions from employees' wages. *Last Action:* 04-02-19 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.

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