



May 6, 2019

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

"Both chambers of the General Assembly [are] in voting session again [this] week, and expectations are the two chambers will continue their respective focuses of government reforms (House) and agriculture (Senate)," reports **Capitolwire**.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The chamber convenes this afternoon at 1 p.m. After Wednesday, the Senate will recess until June 3rd.

Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson) announced last week several changes to the [22 Senate Standing Committees](#) for the remainder of the 2019-20 legislative session.

Among the new assignments, [Senator Dan Langerholm](#) (D-Cambria) was appointed to serve as Chairman of the Senate Education Committee. He succeeds [Senator Ryan Aument](#) (R-Lancaster) who was elected in March to serve as Caucus Secretary.

The Floor Calendar this week includes this particular bill of interest that would establish an education program for families of Pennsylvania National Guard members:

- [SB 589](#) (Regan): Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in military education programs, creating the "PA GI Bill" to enable men and women in the Commonwealth's National Guard to earn educational benefits for their spouse and/or children by committing to a second enlistment of six years. Overall, the program will provide for ten semesters or five years equivalent at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education tuition rate.

The full Senate could also consider these bills that still await consideration:

- [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): Establishes a Global Education Task Force. The chancellor of the State System would hold a seat on this task force.

On Tuesday at noon, the Senate State Government Committee will consider:

- [SB 538](#) (Regan): An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of Shippensburg University & the Governor, to grant & convey to the Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails Council a permanent easement from lands of the Commonwealth, for purpose of establishing a parking lot.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House returns to voting session today. Upon conclusion of its work on Wednesday, the chamber will adjourn until next week.

This week the chamber will consider:

- [HB 860](#) (Miller): Amends the Right-to-Know Law to exempt from public access state and local agency financial institution account numbers, routing numbers, credit card numbers and PIN numbers. The bill specifies that such information may be redacted to protect the security of the agency's account information. The bill also expands the law's current exemption for personal financial information by changing the definition of this term.
- [HB 1324](#) (Barrar): Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), adding language expanding the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Education Program to include a member of the National Guard's spouse and/or child in the program. The bill also provides for eligibility, grants, limitations, recoupment of grant payments, regulations, and administration. It also establishes the Military Family Education Program Fund as a special non-lapsing fund in the State Treasury.

The chamber could also potentially move a General Fund bill that, in its current form, would level-fund the State System:

- [HB 790](#) (Saylor): Provides appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, and more.

This week in committee activity, the **House State Government Committee** will consider legislation that would permit charging fees for certain right-to-know requests:

- [HB 283](#) (Simmons): Amends the Right-to-Know Law to permit a state or local agency to charge additional fees for the search, review and duplication of records that have been requested and will be used for a commercial purpose.

The **House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness** will vote on legislation to guarantee in-state tuition for reassigned military families:

- [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 Pennsylvania, further providing for residency of students. The bill establishes that veterans, their spouses and dependent children, military personnel, their spouses and dependent children and civilian personnel, their spouses and dependent children who are admitted to a public institution of higher learning or a State-related or State-owned institution shall be charged resident tuition rates provided that the student is a resident on the date of deposit confirming their intent to enroll, begins enrollment within the corresponding term for which the deposit was made and remains in continuous enrollment at the institution.

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

In the House:

[HB 163](#) (Everett): Amends Title 62 (Procurement) to modernize Pennsylvania's Separations Act, specifying the delivery systems from which a public agency can choose. The options include: Design-Bid-Build with Multiple Primes (current system); Design-Bid-Build with Single Prime; Construction Management At Risk; and, Design Build. *Last Action:* 04-30-19 H Informational meeting held by House State Government

[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 Action:* 05-06-19 H Set on the House Calendar

[HB 826](#) (Marshall): Creates The Sports Raffle Charities Act, allowing an athletic event drawing to be conducted by an affiliated nonprofit organization during a charitable event held within the same arena, stadium, grandstand, bleachers or other facility during a home game, team event or car race of the athletic team. The legislation was amended in committee to clarify that an institution of higher education that is a 501(c)(3) may operate the drawing and use the proceeds for charitable purposes. The legislation also provides for drawings, prize amounts, definitions, use of funds, eligibility, prohibitions and penalties, etc. *Last Action:* 04-29-19 H Final Passage (Y/188:N/9)

[HB 1350](#) (Saylor): A 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. *Last Action:* 05-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

[HB 1351](#) (Saylor): A 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. *Last Action:* 05-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

[HB 1352](#) (Saylor): A 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. *Last Action:* 05-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

[HB 1353](#) (Saylor): A 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. *Last Action:* 05-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

[HB 1354](#) (Saylor): An Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. *Last Action:* 05-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

[HB 1383](#) (Burns): Amends Title 42 (Judiciary), in particular rights and immunities, providing for nondisclosure agreements. *Last Action:* 05-01-19 H Filed

[HB 1384](#) (Burns): Amends Title 42 (Judiciary), in particular rights and immunities, providing for nondisclosure agreements. *Last Action:* 05-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

In the Senate:

[HB 962](#) (Rozzi): Amends the Crimes Code to provide a prospective extension of the statute of limitations for commencing a civil action arising from childhood sexual abuse, eliminating the statute of limitations for criminal offenses of childhood sexual abuse, and waiving the defense of sovereign immunity in childhood sexual abuse claims for damages caused by actions or omissions constituting negligence. *Last Action:* 04-22-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Judiciary

[HB 1051](#) (Stephens): Amends the Child Protective Services Law to increase the penalties for mandated reporters who continue to fail to report suspected child abuse and broadens the "continuing course of action" provision. *Last Action:* 04-30-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Aging and Youth

[HB 1171](#) (Toohil): Prohibits the use of nondisclosure agreements that prevent victims of childhood sexual abuse from disclosing the name of a person suspected of childhood sexual abuse or cooperating with law enforcement investigations into child sexual abuse claims. *Last Action:* 04-22-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Judiciary

[SB 400](#) (Hughes): Creates the Pennsylvania Student Higher Education Lending Protection (PA Student HELP) Act. It would allow students to refinance high-interest student loan debt, provide tax credits for those who have outstanding student loans and incentivize employers to help pay down student loan debt of their employees. *Last Action:* 05-03-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

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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