



May 13, 2019

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

"The state Senate's next voting session will be the start of June - which ushers in the final push for a new state budget - but the House of Representatives will still be in session this week, and the chamber's majority Republicans indicate they'll already be prepping for that budget," reports **Capitolwire**.

Ahead and during the June budget push, ask your legislator(s) to support increased state funding for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. [CLICK HERE](#) to email or tweet your officials.

The State System is seeking a 2019-20 appropriation of \$505.8 million, an increase of \$37.7 million, to ensure continued access to and affordability of a high-quality education for the citizens of the Commonwealth. Governor Wolf has proposed an appropriation of \$475.1 million, an increase of \$7 million.

Increased state investment would allow System universities to address affordability issues for Pennsylvania's low- and middle-income families, thus improving higher education opportunities.

Additional state funding would also enable System universities to invest in new and innovative academic programs that address workforce needs of employers in the Commonwealth, and in student retention efforts that will help more students achieve success through graduation.

Increased state appropriations is critical to the System's future, its students, and especially its System Redesign efforts. [READ MORE](#) about why support matters.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The chamber stands in recess until June 3rd.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House begins session today at 1p.m. On Wednesday it will adjourn until June 3rd.

The voting schedule includes a variety of bills, including some related to the state budget. "Five bills on second consideration Monday apply to the budget process, and a fiscal code bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday." A fiscal code bill provides substantive language implementing the annual state budget. It typically covers multiple subjects. [VIEW SCHEDULE >>](#)

- [HB 1184](#) (Saylor): Amends the Fiscal Code, in general budget implementation, providing for block grants and further providing for Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

Another bill on the voting schedule would create the Military Family Education Program to encourage National Guard reenlistment.

- [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.

In floor activity last week, the chamber passed [HB 860](#) (Miller), legislation that would protect confidential financial information from Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know law. The bill would: 1) clarify that an employee's individual personal financial information, whether it be with a bank or any other financial institution, or their tax information as required by the state or federal government, is confidential and not a public document; and 2) exempt a public agency's financial institution account numbers, routing numbers, credit card numbers, and passwords from disclosure. [READ MORE >>](#)

The House State Government Committee also advanced last week a Right-to-Know bill. [HB 283](#) (Simmons) would permit local and state agencies to charge additional search, review and duplication fees when responding to public record requests made for a commercial purpose. The fees, to be approved by the state Office of Open Records, must be reasonable and cannot be established with the intent or effect of excluding individuals from access to records. [READ MORE >>](#)

This week in committee activity, a General Fund bill still awaits consideration by the House Appropriations Committee:

- [HB 790](#) (Saylor): Contains appropriations for the executive, legislative and judicial departments, public schools, and for public debt. The bill as currently written would level-fund the State System.

The committee is expected to advance these nonpreferred appropriations bills which, in their current form, would flat fund these institutions:

- [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.
- [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.
- [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.
- [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.
- [HB 1354](#) (Saylor): An Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania's [budget process](#) provides that "appropriations made to institutions not under the absolute control of the Commonwealth are considered nonpreferred appropriations and require a two-thirds vote of each House of the General Assembly for passage."

The House Education Committee meets today to take up handful of charter school-related legislation including:

- [HB 356](#) (Dowling): Amends the Public School Code, granting charter school entities a right of first refusal for the purchase or lease of unused school district buildings, requiring school districts, intermediate units, colleges associated with the State System and community colleges to make facilities available to cyber charter school students for standardized testing, and requiring charter school entities to cover or remove religious objects and symbols if using a sectarian facility.
- [HB 358](#) (Marshall): Amends the Public School Code allow charter schools, regional charter schools, and cyber charter schools to offer dual enrollment programs through institutions of higher education to their students.

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

In the House:

[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. *Last Action:* 05-08-19 H Reported as amended by House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

In the Senate:

[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:* 05-03-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development

[SB 91](#) (Hughes): Amends the Workforce Development Act to require the collection and dissemination of data on emerging and projected future employment sectors in the Commonwealth. *Last Action:* 06-03-19 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[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 Action:* 05-06-19 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 456](#) (Bartolotta): Amends the Private Licensed Schools Act to remove the requirement that at all entities of a "multibranch training school" must be located within the same county. *Last Action:* 05-08-19 S Referred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 536](#) (Browne): Amends the Public School Code establishing the Public Higher Education Funding Commission, which shall review and make recommendations related to higher education funding. *Last Action:* 05-07-19 S Passed over in Senate Education

[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. *Last Action:* 06-03-19 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[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. *Last Action:* 05-07-19 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SR 34](#) (Dinniman): Establishes a Global Education Task Force. The chancellor of the State System would hold a seat on this task force. *Last Action:* 06-03-19 S Set on the Senate Calendar

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