



December 16, 2019

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

"[Tis the season](#) to celebrate," Chancellor Greenstein said in his latest blog. So as we approach the last legislative session week of the calendar year, let us reflect and celebrate "some of the tremendous successes we've had thus far in creating a sharing system..."

As those [successes](#) relate to the General Assembly and elected leaders, Greenstein shares that we have:

- "engaged in a wholly different kind of dialog with our owners—the Commonwealth...This dialogue is transparent about our progress as well as our challenges and involves actively listening to the very real concerns of our elected officials and to frame, execute, and report progress with concrete responses to them. In doing so, we seek to inform the policy and budget trade-off decisions that elected officials need to make with hard data about impact and consequence..."

We look forward to continuing our work and conversations with the General Assembly into 2020 when we will further discuss our [investment request](#) through the annual budget hearing process.

The State System is requesting an Educational & General (E&G) appropriation of \$487 million, a \$9.5 million, or 2 percent, increase over FY 2019/20. A line item appropriation for System Redesign Investment of \$20 million to support the creation of a shared services consortium, development of new online

pathways and collaborative academic programming, and expansion of a shared information technology environment complements the E&G appropriation.

We'll share details when available about how to watch the budget hearings live or to view the online archive. Until then, mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 4th, when Governor Wolf will present a proposed FY 2020/21 budget to a joint session of the legislature.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate convenes Wednesday. After concluding its work, the chamber will recess until after the new year, January 7th.

Floor action could occur on these bills of interest, which are aimed to **reduce unused state office space and inventory communications assets** and **guarantee in-state tuition for children in reassigned military families**

- [HB 305](#) (Snyder): An Act providing for an inventory of State-owned assets & county-owned assets for the development of mobile broadband services in unserved areas and underserved areas of this Commonwealth & for the statewide mobile radio & microwave system.
- [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 enrollment, registers for the corresponding term and remains in continuous enrollment at the institution.

The chamber's committee meeting calendar does not include any meetings of interest.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House convenes for its last session days of the calendar year, starting today at 1 p.m. and finishing Wednesday. Like the Senate, the chamber will also return on January 7th.

Bills of interest upon which the chamber is expected to act include:

- [SB 166](#) (Hughes): An Act providing for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020.
- [SB 905](#) (Browne): An Act providing for the capital budget for fiscal year 2019-2020; itemizing public improvement projects; authorizing the incurring of debt; authorizing the use of current revenue; and making appropriations.

Before adjourning in November, both chambers concurred in amendments to [HB 49](#) (Browne). Signed by Governor Wolf on November 27th, the legislation, among other things:

- Extends the deadline for the **Public Higher Education Funding Commission** to issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly from July 2, 2020, to November 30, 2020.
- Requires students seeking a **fostering independence waiver** to apply for all available federal and state grants as a qualification for the program.

In committee activity this week, the House State Government will meet Tuesday and take up legislation that would require the Dept. of General Services to conduct **an annual survey of state building/facility usage**.

- [SB 327](#) (Argall): Amends the Administrative Code, in powers and duties of the Dept. of General Services and its departmental administrative and advisory boards and commissions, providing for report of State facilities owned or leased.

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

Executive Action:

[HB 49](#) (Brown): Amends the Public School Code, in school security, further providing for definitions, for

school police officers, for training, for powers and duties, for school resource officers and for school security guards; in high schools, further providing for courses of study; in miscellaneous provisions relating to institutions of higher education, further providing for Public Higher Education Funding Commission; and, in fostering independence through education, further providing for fostering independence waiver program. *Last Action:* 11-27-19 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 91)

[HB 1051](#) (Stephens): Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in child protective services, further providing for penalties for failure to report suspected child abuse by mandated reporters. Increases the offense of willfully failing to report suspected child abuse by a mandate reporter when it is a "continuing course of action" from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree. Further provides if the child abuse constitutes a felony of the first degree or higher, the person commits a felony of the second degree. *Last Action:* 11-26-19 Approved by the Governor (Act: 88)

[SB 456](#) (Bartolotta): Amends the Private Licensed Schools Act, further providing for definitions, for State Board of Private Licensed Schools, for powers & duties of Board, for application for license, for license fees & for requirements for licensure. *Last Action:* 11-27-19 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 110)

In the House:

[HB 2126](#) (Murt): Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in Department of Military Affairs, further providing for veterans registry; and making an editorial change. *Last Action:* 12-10-19 H Filed

[HR 567](#) (Miller, D): A Resolution directing JSGC to conduct a comprehensive study on workforce development, economic and workforce transition and worker displacement and issue a report of its findings and recommendations. *Last Action:* 12-02-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

[SB 439](#) (Regan): Amends the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law, further providing for disability benefits and for definitions. *Last Action:* 11-19-19 H Voted from committee with request to re-refer House Labor - House Judiciary and Industry use Judiciary

In the Senate:

[SB 900](#) (Scarnati): An Act providing for advanced manufacturing research, development facilities & infrastructures through business partnerships with State-related institutions; est. the Max Manufacturing Initiative Fund; imposing duties on the Dept. of Revenue. *Last Action:* 11-26-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development

[SB 945](#) (Costa): Amends the Public School Code, in Safe2Say Program, providing for definitions; in postsecondary institution sexual harassment & sexual violence policy & online reporting system, for definitions, for online reporting system; and making an editorial change. *Last Action:* 11-15-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

[SB 949](#) (Williams, A.): Amends Title 24 (Education), in higher education, providing for intercollegiate athletics. *Last Action:* 11-15-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

[SB 956](#) (Collett): An Act providing for the provision of disposable menstrual products. *Last Action:* 11-25-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

Co-sponsorship Memos:

[HCO2820](#) (Kenyatta): Addresses food insecurity issues on campuses. *Last Action:* 11-20-19 H Filed

[HCO2835](#) (Davis): Prohibits commonwealth agencies from using public funds for the purpose of lobbying other agencies. *Last Action:* 11-21-19 H Filed

[HCO2851](#) (Davis): Requires PASSHE universities and state-related institutions to individually develop and adopt a gambling policy. *Last Action:* 11-25-19 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.

Jennifer Hoover
Director of Governmental Relations
jhoover@passhe.edu
(717) 720-4021