



April 20, 2020

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

As the General Assembly continues to struggle with the fallout of COVID-19 pandemic, a rally is expected to occur outside of the capitol complex. An array of groups are opposed to Gov. Tom Wolf's continued quarantine and business closure orders, [PennLive](#) reports.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, Governor Wolf announced "a [Plan](#) for Pennsylvania that will set citizens and businesses on a path to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to protect life from the dangers of this deadly virus." He outlined six key points to his Plan for Pennsylvania:

- Using a data-driven approach to determine reopenings.
- Abiding by guidance and recommendations for employers, individuals, and health care facilities for assured accountability while reopening.
- Making available adequate personal protective equipment and testing before reopening.
- Using a monitoring and surveillance program that allows the commonwealth to deploy swift actions for containment or mitigation.
- Keeping in place protections for vulnerable populations throughout the reopening process, such as limitations on visitors to congregate at care facilities and prisons.
- Limiting large gatherings unrelated to occupations through the reopening process.

The legislature acted last week to pass legislation which would require the governor to create a plan for allowing businesses that can operate safely to do so. One bill, SB 613, awaits consideration by the governor. Gov. Tom Wolf has said he will veto the bill.

Today, when the General Assembly reconvenes, it is expected the House will take action to concur in Senate amendments to SB 327, "and other measures advanced last week to open up specific sectors of the economy that are open in other states and complying with federal virus safety standards... based on the [Senate's] planned committee meetings, [the chamber looks] focused on advancing more bills to address health care, judicial, first responder, human services and data reporting issues brought on by the COVID-19 outbreak," Capitolwire reports.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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The Senate is scheduled to return to voting session at 1:00 p.m. today.

The Senate approved [two bills](#) last week that would provide for the process of deciding which businesses can safely operate during the COVID-19 pandemic. See Tracking Report below.

In committee activity, Senate Rules and Executive Nominations is scheduled to meet at noon today to consider certain executive nominations. These State System-related nominations await consideration:

- **Bloomsburg University:** Dan Klingerman
- **California University of Pennsylvania:** Sandra Guthrie and Justin Nwokeji, Monroeville
- **East Stroudsburg University:** Frank Epifano, Marcus Lingenfelter, Tameko Patterson and L. Patrick Ross
- **Edinboro University:** Danny Jones
- **Indiana University of Pennsylvania:** Joyce Fairman
- **Kutztown University:** Linda Cliatt-Wayman
- **Lock Haven University:** Krystjan Callahan, Moriah Hathaway and Albert Jones
- **Mansfield University:** Max Gannon, II, and Karen Russell
- **Millersville University:** Richard Frerichs, Rick Rodgers, and Saul Fink
- **Shippensburg University:** William Gindlesperger
- **Slippery Rock University:** Alfonso Angelucci, Dan Lavalley and William McCarrier
- **West Chester University:** Chris Franklin and Jonathan Ireland

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 at 1:00 p.m. and again Tuesday, April 21.

House floor activity includes consideration of these bills on 2nd consideration, after which these bills will be rereferred to House Appropriations for further amendment:

- [HB 2400 \(Turzai\)](#): An Act amending the Administrative Code, allowing all public and private construction activities to be undertaken that adhere to mitigation measures set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect workers and mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- [HB 2387 \(Saylor\)](#): An Act to provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative & Judicial Departments, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. In its current form, the funding level reflects flat funding for the State System.

During the House Appropriations April 14th meeting, Chairman Saylor had indicated HB 2387 would eventually contain the FY 2020-2021 budget. It is speculated that given the state's fiscal budget challenges, the General Assembly could look at a short term budget, then close out the rest of the budget in the fall.

The following bill is before the House for concurrence on Senate amendments; among other things, it would create a process for determining which businesses can continue to remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- [SB 327 \(Argall\)](#): Amends the Administrative Code, providing for COVID-19 emergency statutory and regulatory suspensions & waivers reopandrtng requirements, for COVID-19 debt cost reduction review task force; in powers & duties of DGS, for report of facilities. The bill was amended in the Senate to give county governments the option to develop and implement their own plans to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, following CISA guidelines.
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Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

Executive Action:

[SB 613 \(Mensch\)](#): An Act amending the Administrative Code, reenacting provisions related to criminal history background checks of employees and contractors with access to Federal tax information and adding a new article regarding emergency COVID-19 provisions for a mitigation plan for businesses. *Last*

Action: 4-26-20 G Last day for Governor's action

[SB 841 \(Martin\)](#): An Act amending Titles 35 (Health and Safety) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes), reauthorizing the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council; allowing local governments to provide greater flexibility on property tax deadlines; permitting local governments to conduct remote meetings; and giving notaries emergency authorization to notarize documents remotely through the use of communications technology. *Last Action*: 4-26-20 G Last day for Governor's action

In the House:

[HCO3461 \(Dush\)](#): Places restrictions on how much each agency can spend at the end of the fiscal year.

Last Action: 04-15-20 H Filed

In the Senate:

[SB 1050 \(Browne\)](#): 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021. *Last Action*: 04-07-20 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 1060 \(Browne\)](#): 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*: 04-07-20 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 1061 \(Browne\)](#): 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*: 04-07-20 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 1062 \(Browne\)](#): 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*: 04-07-20 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 1063 \(Browne\)](#): 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:* 04-07-20 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 1064 \(Browne\)](#): An Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. *Last Action:* 04-07-20 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 1093 \(Browne\)](#): An Act providing for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021. *Last Action:* 04-07-20 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SCO1514 \(Martin\)](#): Provides flexibility for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education to address system-wide challenges that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. *Last Action:* 4-17-20 S Filed

[SCO1515 \(Boscola\)](#): Provides a Pennsylvania Coronavirus Relief Package, including the creation of grant of \$25 million for Pennsylvania based research facilities within any colleges or universities or partnered with a college or university in the Commonwealth. *Last Action:* 4-17-20 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.

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