



Pennsylvania's **STATE SYSTEM** of Higher Education

September 8, 2020

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

The Senate reconvenes this afternoon while the House is adjourned until Tuesday, September 15th.

Capitolwire reports the chamber is expected "to continue work on items the state House of Representatives advanced last week: state election code changes and items focused on providing schools, their students and students' families with more flexibility regarding educational and extracurricular activity decisions and opportunities."

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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The Senate convened briefly last Thursday and Friday to report bills from committee and now stands in recess until this afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

Bills of interest upon which the chamber could act:

- [HB 2438](#) (Owlett): Amends Title 68 (Real and Personal Property), providing for broadband services. The legislation is intended to "[boost broadband expansion](#)" by helping to "expedite the process and control costs by allowing rural electric cooperatives to deploy broadband service under their existing easements.
- [SB 835](#) (Langerholc): An Act providing for funding of high-speed broadband service infrastructure deployment in unserved areas of this Commonwealth and for powers and duties of the Department of Community and Economic Development. It is intended to "provide [broadband access to rural/underserved areas](#) of the state."

In committee activity, the Senate Communications and Technology Committee meets this morning at 10:00 a.m. to hold a public hearing on the Department of Health's COVID-19 contact tracing mobile app.

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The committee will meet off the floor this afternoon to take up:

- [SB 487](#) (Laughlin): Amends the Breach of Personal Information Notification Act, prohibiting employees from using nonsecured internet connections; and for policy & entities subject to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability.
- [HB 2348](#) (Causer): Amends Title 64 (Public Authorities & Quasi-Public Corporations), in Commonwealth Financing Authority, for Unserved High-Speed Broadband Funding Program; establishing the Unserved High-Speed Broadband Funding Program Account.

The Senate State Government Committee also meets off the floor today and will consider:

- [SB 1241](#) (Argall): Amends the Administrative Code, in powers and duties of the Department of General Services and its departmental administrative and advisory boards and commissions, providing for report of State facilities owned or leased.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

Pursuant to the Board of Governor's August 13th favorable vote approving the Office of the Chancellor's request to proceed with the disposition of the Dixon University Center through lease or sale, as well as Edinboro University's Porreco location, the House (and Senate) Calendar now includes two State System property disposition requests.

Final action on this request must occur within 30 calendar days following its date of transmittal to the General Assembly excluding days on which either house is not in session because of an adjournment of more than ten days to a day certain.

Much of the activity last week within the chamber was focused on election code changes and education.

The chamber approved two pieces of legislation House Bills [2787](#) and [2788](#), regarding educational, extracurricular and athletic activities of local school districts. These bills are now before the Senate.

The House also voted on a measure to override Gov. Wolf's emergency declaration. The veto override failed to reach the necessary two-thirds majority (135 votes) to override the veto. The governor's veto is sustained, until and if a veto override on [House Resolution 836](#) by both chambers were to be successful.

There is no committee activity of interest.

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

In the House:

[HB 2824](#) (Innamorato): Amends the Public School Code, in miscellaneous provisions relating to institutions of higher education, providing for menstrual hygiene products. *Last Action:* 08-28-20 H Introduced and referred to House Education

[HB 2827](#) (Rabb): Amends Title 35 (Health & Safety), in COVID-19 disaster emergency, providing for student tenant relief. *Last Action:* 08-31-20 H Introduced and referred to House Consumer Affairs

[HR 610](#) (Kinsey): A Resolution honoring the legacy of Cheyney University as the oldest historically black university in the U.S. and supporting its reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. *Last Action:* 09-15-20 H Set on the House Calendar

[SB 1216](#) (Langerholc): Amends Public School Code, in certification of teachers, for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of dept. and for special provisions applicable to 2020-2021 school year. *Last Action:* 09-15-20 H Set on the House 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.

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