



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

September 28, 2020

# Legislative UPDATE

## Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

The House of Representatives is set to be in session Tuesday through Thursday this week, while the Senate will return Monday, October 5th.

In just two months, another two-year legislative session will wrap up. Capitolwire reports "there are only a week's worth of voting session days planned for each legislative chamber before [November 30th]." And lawmakers still need "come up with a seven-month budget to complete the spending plan for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and address the revenue shortfall of FY2019-20 and the expected shortfall of FY2020-21."

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Senate

## Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate stands in recess until Monday, October 5, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

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## 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 29, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Much of the chamber's efforts this week may "focus on bills related to some medical compacts as well as the state's Optometric Practice and Licensure Act," according to Capitolwire.

The following legislation originally providing for teacher certification flexibility is again listed for third consideration:

- [SB 1216](#) (Langerholc): Amends the Public School Code concerning educator certification, confidentiality, transference and removal of health records, graduation requirements, transportation, and special provisions applicable to the 2020-2021 school year.

Among the provisions, new Section 1207.4 (applicable for the 2020-21 school year) would allow the Secretary of Education to temporarily waive certain test requirements for individuals entering student teacher programs or who have completed teacher preparation programs and were not able to take the tests because they were not offered. The Secretary could also allow current educators who want to increase their instructional certification from I to II or add a special certification to temporarily do so for one year without assessment.

Another section would allow the Department of Education to continue to issue the special education pre-kindergarten through grade 8 certification or the special education grades 7 through 12 certification to any individual enrolled in a certification program at an institution of higher education or approved alternative education program prior to December 31, 2021.

House State Government meets Wednesday 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. Requires the Department of General Services to conduct an annual survey of state facility usage.

On Thursday, 9:30 a.m., the House Health Committee will hold a joint public hearing with the House Labor & Industry Committee on the impact of actions taken by the PA Department of Health on Pennsylvania's employers. [Live Stream >>](#)

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## Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

**In the Senate:**

[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. *Last Action:* 10-5-20 S Set on Senate Calendar

[HB 2438](#) (Owlett): Amends Title 68 (Real and Personal Property), providing for broadband services. *Last Action:* 09-22-20 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[HB 2503](#) (Miller, B): Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in child protective services, to allow an employer to provisionally hire an applicant who has not yet received all the required background checks under limited conditions. *Last Action:* 10-5-20 S Set on Senate Calendar

[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. *Last Action:* 09-22-20 S Final Passage

[SB 1226](#): Allocates \$130 million in federal CARES Act funding: \$35 million to Pennsylvania's community colleges, \$25 million each to Temple University, the University of Pittsburgh, and Penn State University, \$10 million to Lincoln University, and \$10 million to Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. *Last Action:* 10-5-20 S Set on the Senate Calendar

**In the House:**

[HB 1887](#) (Driscoll): Amends an act relating to the indemnification agreements between architects, engineers, and owners, contractors, subcontractors or suppliers, further providing for the act, providing for further indemnification. A party to a contract cannot hold another party liable for its own negligence. *Last Action:* 9-17-20 H Laid on the table

[HB 2882](#) (Isaacson): Provides an additional 30 days of paid leave for any employee, faculty member, or staff member of a Pennsylvania college or university who is required to quarantine due to COVID-19. *Last Action:* 9-18-20 H Introduced and referred to House Education

[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. *Last Action:* 9-14-20 H Received in the House and referred to House Consumer Affairs

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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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