



November 16, 2020

Legislative UPDATE

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education

"State lawmakers return to Harrisburg [this week for] what has become a rarity in recent years with a post-election session in which substantive legislation is expected to be considered," reports [PennLive](#).

According to Capitolwire, their work will primarily focus on trying "to figure out a way to finish off the state's 2020-21 state budget (as well as appropriate \$1.3 billion in federal CARES Act funding), of which there are seven months remaining to be addressed." Federal CARES Act funding must be spent by December 31st on COVID-19 related needs.

The \$25.8 billion [interim budget](#) funded education for kindergarten to 12th grade at the same level as 2019-20, and it also fully funded colleges and universities, including Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

The current two-year legislative comes to an end on November 30th. If a balanced budget is not settled upon by then, providers, grantees and others would be impacted.

Senate

Session & Committee Activity

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

The Senate stands in recess until the call of the President Pro Tempore, but is presently scheduled to convene today and again Tuesday through Thursday.

In committee activity, Senate Appropriations is scheduled to consider these bills of interest:

- [SB 1350](#) (Browne): A supplement to and 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.
- [HB 630](#) (Day): Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in military leave of absence, further providing for employment discrimination for military membership or duty.

Senate Rules and Executive Nominations is also expected to meet off the floor today to consider certain executive nominations, which could include consideration of these nominees:

- **Council of Trustees of California University:** Steve DeFrank
- **Council of Trustees of Clarion University:** Susanne Burns and Howard Shreckengost
- **Council of Trustees of Indiana University:** Anne White
- **Council of Trustees of Kutztown University:** Kevin Harden, Jr. and Walter “Jim” Ludlow
- **Council of Trustees of Lock Haven University:** Margery Dosey, John Gower and Mark Stern
- **Council of Trustees of West Chester University:** Senator Robert Tomlinson, Marian Moskowitz, Thomas Fillippo and Betty Silfa

Additionally, Cynthia Shapira and Janet Yeomens await reappointment to the System's Board of Governors, while William Gindlesperger, B. Michael Schaul and Larry C. Skinner await Senate confirmation before starting their service.

[Senate Republicans](#) last week elected their leadership team for the 2021-2022 legislative session. Senate Democrats are expected to hold caucus elections this week. The newly elected leadership teams will begin serving in their roles on December 1, 2020.

- President Pro Tempore Senator Jake Corman (R-Centre/ Huntingdon (part)/Juniata/Mifflin)
- Majority Leader Senator Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland)
- Majority Appropriations Committee Chair Senator Pat Browne (R-Lehigh)
- Majority Whip Senator John Gordner (R-Columbia/Luzerne/Montour/Northumberland/Snyder)
- Majority Caucus Chairman Senator Bob Mensch (R-Berks/Bucks/Montgomery)
- Majority Caucus Secretary, Senator Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster)

While voting counting continues, unofficial results show Sens.-elect John Kane and Carolyn Committa winning their respective senatorial districts which include Cheyney and West Chester Universities, respectively. And best wishes to Cris Dush, who will represent Lock Haven and Mansfield Universities. Committa and Dush currently serve in the state House.

We also look forward to the good work of these State System alumni, who have earned a 4-year senatorial term:

- Sen. John Sabatina (Wester Chester University of Pennsylvania)
- Sen. Scott Martin (Millersville University of Pennsylvania)
- Sen.-elect Cris Dush (Clarion University of Pennsylvania)
- Sen. Jay Costa (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)

State System property disposition resolution requests regarding the Dixon University Center and Porrecco College of Edinboro University also await the chamber's approval. If final action on these requests does not occur, the System will have to seek approval from both chambers in the new legislative session.

House of Representatives

Session & Committee Activity

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

[Schedule](#)

The House met briefly in non-voting session last week and now stands adjourned until this afternoon at 1:00 p.m., when it will convene in non-voting session. The chamber will convene again in non-voting session Tuesday before meeting in voting session Wednesday and Thursday.

In committee activity, the House Appropriations Committee has a meeting scheduled daily for the purposes of possibly considering FY 2021 funding legislation and other bills.

The [Pennsylvania House Republican Caucus](#) last Tuesday elected its legislative leaders for the 2021-22 Legislative Session:

- Speaker-designee Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster)
- Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre/Mifflin)
- Majority Whip Donna Oberlander (R-Clarion/Armstrong/Forest)
- Majority Appropriations Committee Chairman Stan Saylor (R-York)
- Majority Policy Committee Chairman Marty Causer (R-Cameron/McKean/Potter)
- Majority Caucus Chairman Mike Reese (R-Westmoreland/Somerset)
- Majority Caucus Secretary Martina White (R-Philadelphia)
- Majority Caucus Administrator Kurt Masser (R Northumberland/Columbia/Montour)

On Thursday, November 12th, the [Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus](#) choose its caucus leaders:

- Minority Leader Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia/Delaware)
- Minority Whip Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia)
- Minority Appropriations Chairman Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery)
- Minority Chair Dan Miller (D-Allegheny)
- Minority Caucus Secretary Tina Davis (D-Bucks)
- Minority Caucus Administrator Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh)
- Minority Policy Chairman Ryan Bizarro (D-Erie)

Based on unofficial results as we know them, we extend congratulations to these legislators, who attended or graduated from a State System university:

- Rep. Ryan Bizarro (Edinboro University of Pennsylvania)
- Rep. Marci Mustello (Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania)
- Rep. Parke Wentling (California and Clarion Universities of Pennsylvania)
- Rep.-elect Emily Kinkead (Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania)

- Rep. Meghan Schroeder (Millersville University of Pennsylvania)
- Rep. Mindy Fee (Millersville University)
- Rep. Brett Miller (Millersville University)
- Rep. Timothy O'Neal (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)
- Rep. Bob Brooks (California University)
- Rep. Jeff Pyle (IUP)
- Rep. Jim Struzzi (IUP)
- Rep. Donna Oberlander (Clarion University)
- Rep. Lee James (Clarion University)
- Rep. Kathy Rapp (Slippery Rock)
- Rep. Rich Irvin (IUP)
- Rep.-elect Joseph Hamm (Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania)
- Rep. Stan Saylor (IUP)
- Rep. Linda Schlegel-Culver (Bloomsburg University)
- Rep. David Millard (Bloomsburg University)
- Rep. Kyle Mullins (West Chester University of Pennsylvania)
- Rep. Mark Rozzi (Kutztown University of Pennsylvania)
- Rep.-elect Manuel Guzman (Kutztown University)
- Rep. Mark Gillen (Kutztown University)
- Rep. Joseph Emrick (Kutztown University)
- Rep. Tim Briggs (West Chester University)
- Rep. Todd Stephens (Millersville University)
- Rep. Daniel Friel Otten (Millersville University)
- Rep. David Dellosso (Mansfield University)
- Rep. Jennifer O'Mara (West Chester University)
- Rep. Brian Sims (Bloomsburg University)
- Rep. Zachary Mako (Kutztown University)
- Rep. Jordan Harris (Millersville University)
- Rep. Stephen Kinsey (West Chester University)

We also congratulate Reps.-elect Brian Smith, Perry Stambaugh and Diane Herrin whose legislative districts include IUP's Punxsutawney campus, Shippensburg University and West Chester University, respectively

Bill Tracking Report

The following information is updated during legislative session weeks.

Executive Actions:

[HB 440](#) (Delozier): Amends Titles 18 (Crimes & Offenses) & 42 (Judiciary), in criminal history record information, for expungement; for petition for limited access, for clean slate limited access; in admin. of justice, for attachment & summary punishment. *Last Action:* 10-29-20 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 83)

[HB 2438](#) (Owlett): Amends Title 68 (Real and Personal Property), providing for broadband services. *Last Action:* Approved by the Governor (Act: 98)

[SB 952](#) (Regan): Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in veterans' preference, repealing provisions relating to soldier defined, for purpose & defs., repealing provisions relating to credits in civil service exams, for preference in appointment or promotion. *Last Action:* 10-29-20 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 102)

In the House:

[HB 2352](#) (Grove): An act providing for liability for false claims, for adoption of congressional intent of the federal false claims act, for damages, costs & civil penalties, for powers of attorney general, for civil investigative demands & COVID-19 liability. *Last Action:* 11-16-20 H Set on the House Calendar

[HB 2546](#) (Grove): Amends the Administrative Code, providing for COVID-19 Good Samaritan Emergency Liability Waiver. *Last Action:* 11-16-20 H Set on the House Calendar

[HB 2943](#) (Rozzi): Act providing for implicit bias and cultural competence training for public employees and licensees and imposing duties on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. *Last Action:* 10-19-20 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

[HB 2952](#) (Ortitay): Amends Public School Code providing for institution of higher education application and process. *Last Action:* 10-21-20 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

[HB 2966](#) (Saylor): Supplement to the General Appropriations Act, providing additional & replacement appropriations from the General Fund & other funds for the expenses of the Executive Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. *Last Action:* 11-13-20 H Filed

[SB 835](#) (Langerholc): Provides 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:* 10-21-20
H Rereferred to House Appropriations

[SB 1216](#) (Langerholc): Amends Public School Code, for keystone exams and grad. requirements, for instructional certificate grade spans & age levels & duties of dept., for special provisions applicable to 2020-21 school year, for transportation, & health records. *Last Action:* 10-5-20 S Received as amended in Senate and rereferred Senate Rules and Executive Nominations

[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. *Last Action:* 10-20-20 H Rerereferred to House Appropriations

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:* 11-12-20 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 1118](#) (Pittman): Amends Title 68 (Real and Personal Property), providing for broadband services. *Last Action:* 11-12-20 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 1226](#) (Tartaglione): Supplement to the General Fund, for public debt and public schools, for additional appropriations for the fiscal year of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. *Last Action:* 11-12-20 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 1350](#) (Browne): A supplement to and 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:* 10-6-20 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SCO1810](#) (Yudichak): Creates the Pennsylvania Skills Compact. *Last Action:* 10-21-20 S Filed

[SCO1816](#) (Ward): Revises the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) based on

Commonwealth Court case law, experienced deficiencies, and other issues. *Last Action:*
11-02-20 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.

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



www.passhe.edu | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)

The content of this message and related hyperlinks is for information purposes only and does not necessarily express the views of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or its agents.