



The Education Policy and Leadership Center
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EPLC EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

Friday, June 13, 2014

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The EPLC Education Notebook (current and past editions) also is available by visiting the EPLC website at <http://www.eplc.org/category/education-notebook/>.

PENNSYLVANIA POLICYMAKERS

The Pennsylvania **House of Representatives** and **Senate** will reconvene in voting session on **Monday, June 16** at 1:00 PM.

State Budget Update

This week **House Appropriations Committee Chairman William Adolph** (R-165) began the budget process by introducing the **Budget Bill, House Bill 2328**. HB 2328 provides for a General Fund Budget identical to the current fiscal year's budget, and therefore contains none of the increases proposed by Governor Corbett in his budget address in February and accounts for none of the mandatory 2014-2015 cost increases related to pensions, debt service and other legal requirements. In other words, it simply provides a vehicle to begin to move forward an appropriations bill in the House, with the understanding that no agreement has been reached on any of the details of the budget for the next fiscal year.

The **House Appropriations Committee** on June 11 **reported the bill as committed** on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the affirmative and Democrats voting in the negative. Chairman Adolph and others have explained that negotiations with party leaders and the Administration are ongoing and this bill will be amended to represent those negotiations. Minority Chairman Markosek noted during the meeting that there are only nineteen calendar days and twelve scheduled session days left before June 30, the end of the fiscal year.

The shortfall for the current year, combined with the revenue implications for the fiscal year beginning July 1, suggests a funding gap of more than \$1 billion to pay for the budget proposed by Governor

Corbett in February. The members of the General Assembly and Governor Corbett have less than three weeks to complete the budget by the constitutional deadline of June 30.

[Governor's Office](#)

On June 10, **Governor Corbett signed into law House Bill 1738 ([Act 51 of 2014](#))** sponsored by **Rep. Bernie O'Neill** (R-29). Act 51 will establish the **Basic Education Funding Commission**. The Commission shall develop a proposed basic education funding formula and identify factors that may be used to determine the distribution of basic education funding. The Commission will be required to gather public input and hold a series of public hearings across the state. It must issue a report of its findings and recommendations no later than June 10, 2015. Any recommendations suggested by the Commission will not go into effect unless enacted by the General Assembly. The Basic Education Funding Commission is modeled after the Special Education Commission created by Act 3 of 2013.

[House of Representatives](#)

➤ During the week of June 9, the **House of Representatives** acted on the following legislation:

- [House Bill 1460](#), sponsored by **Rep. Mark Gillen** (R-128), would amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) to require educational institutions to grant a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or other reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, or a member's spouse, an **"M" or "MILITARY" on their grade transcript for all classes they are unable to complete due to a military leave of absence**. It would also require the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to create a **searchable database of individuals awarded the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, and Silver Star**.

The House **approved the bill on concurrence** with Senate amendments on June 9 by a vote of [194-1](#). The bill has been presented to the Governor for final approval.

- [House Bill 2124](#), sponsored by **Rep. Seth Grove** (R-196), would amend the Public School Code to provide for changes to the Planning and Construction Workbook (**PlanCon**) **school construction reimbursement process**.

HB 2124 **passed** the House on June 9 by a vote of [109-86](#). Prior to the passage by the House, the bill was reported as committed from the House Appropriations Committee. [Click here](#) to read the Committee's **fiscal note**, which includes a summary of the bill's proposed changes.

- [Senate Bill 1205](#), sponsored by **Sen. Mike Folmer** (R-48), would amend the Public School Code to **simplify the process a college must follow in order to become a university**. A college that is authorized to confer bachelor's degrees may be designated a university if the president of the institution submits a letter to the Department of Education. The bill provides for the content and submission of the letter, and the review process for the Department. It would also allow for an accredited **trade school** conferring a minimum of association degrees in specialized technology **to be designated as a college**.

SB 1205 **passed** the House on June 9 by a vote of [195-0](#). Prior to the passage by the House, the bill was reported as committed from the House Appropriations Committee. [Click here](#) to read the Committee's **fiscal note**.

The bill was then sent back to the Senate for a vote on concurrence to House amendments. On June 11, the **Senate approved the bill on concurrence** by a vote of [49-0-1 NV](#). The bill has been presented to the Governor for final approval.

- [Senate Bill 1115](#), sponsored by **Sen. Robert Robbins** (R-50), would amend the Title 51 (Military Affairs) by making changes to the Pennsylvania National Guard's **Educational Assistance Program** (EAP). On June 9 the House unanimously **adopted on the floor an amendment**, sponsored by **Rep. RoseMarie Swanger** (R-102). On June 10, the House **passed** the bill by a vote of [199-0](#).

As amended, SB 1115 would require an approved institution of higher learning to first consider any Federal tuition assistance received by an eligible member before awarding an EAP grant. An EAP grant would then be awarded to the eligible member if the member requires additional financial aid to cover the remaining costs of attendance. "Costs of attendance" is defined as any allowable educational expenses, as determined by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, that are consistent with the Higher Education Scholarship Law. The grants must be paid or refunded to the eligible member for approved costs of attendance. The total of all federal and state military education benefits, as administered by the Pennsylvania National Guard, shall not exceed 100 percent of the costs of attendance.

Prior to the passage by the House, the bill was reported as committed from the House Appropriations Committee. [Click here](#) to read the **fiscal note**. SB 1115 has been sent back to the Senate for a vote on concurrence to the House amendment.

- [House Bill 198](#), sponsored by **Rep. Ed Neilson** (D-169), would amend the Public School Code to establish the **Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program**. The Program would provide evidence-based early screening and multitier support systems, using evidence-based intervention services for students with potential risk factors for early reading deficiencies and dyslexia. HB 198 provides for a three year pilot program in at least three school districts that meet certain criteria outlined in the bill.

The House **approved the bill on concurrence** with Senate amendments on June 11 by a vote of [197-0](#). The bill will now be presented to the Governor for final approval.

- On June 11, the **House Appropriations Committee** unanimously **reported as committed** a series of budget-related bills sponsored by **Rep. William Adolph** (R-165). Each bill provides for an appropriation for FY 2014-15 identical to what was enacted in the current FY 2013-14 budget.
 - [House Bill 2284](#) would **appropriate \$41,689,000** from the **Public School Employees' Retirement Fund** to the **Public School Employees' Retirement Board** for the expenses incurred by the Board in FY 2014-15 and any bills remaining unpaid at the end of FY 2013-14. [Click here](#) to read the **fiscal note**.
 - [House Bill 2335](#) would appropriate **\$136,293,000 to the University of Pittsburgh**. [Click here](#) to read the **fiscal note**.
 - [House Bill 2336](#) would appropriate **\$139,917,000 to Temple University**. [Click here](#) to read the **fiscal note**.
 - [House Bill 2337](#) would appropriate **\$13,163,000 to Lincoln University**. [Click here](#) to read the **fiscal note**.
 - [House Bill 2338](#) would appropriate **\$28,261,000 to the University of Pennsylvania**. [Click here](#) to read the **fiscal note**.
- On June 11, the **House Education Committee** met to consider the following bills:

- [Senate Bill 1194](#), sponsored by **Sen. Donald White** (R-41), would amend the Public School Code to allow school entities to enter into **cooperative police agreements** with local law enforcement outside the municipality wherein the school or school district is located, if the school or district is located in a municipality without its own local law enforcement. SB 1194 would **authorize the Office of Safe Schools to make targeted grants** to school entities, municipalities, local law enforcement agencies, and approved vendors. Nonpublic schools would be allowed to apply to the Office for grant funding to be used for the cost associated with obtaining a school police officer from a list of approved vendors. The Office of Safe Schools would be required to establish criteria for certifying approved vendors, and make the list publicly accessible on the Pennsylvania Department of Education website. SB 1194 was unanimously **reported as amended**.

The **amendment**, sponsored by **Rep. Paul Clymer** (R-145) and **adopted** by a vote of [21-1-3 NV](#), requires the Office of Safe Schools to **consult with the Pennsylvania State Police** in establishing the criteria for certifying approved vendors. It also clarifies that a **nonpublic school may not apply for grant funding for any other purpose** than obtaining the services of a school police officer.

- [Senate Bill 874](#), sponsored by **Sen. Pat Vance** (R-31), would amend the Public School Code to provide for **community college funding flexibility plans**. SB 874 would allow a local sponsoring school district of a community college that meets certain criteria to negotiate the amount the sponsor contributes on behalf of the community college's annual operating and capital expenses. The only community college the legislation pertains to currently is the Harrisburg Area Community College. SB 874 was unanimously **reported as committed**.
- [House Bill 2082](#), sponsored by **Rep. James Clay** (D-179), would amend the Public School Code to require instruction in **problem gambling awareness** within the Alcohol, Chemical, and Tobacco Abuse Program.

The Committee discussed an **amendment**, offered by **Rep. Paul Clymer** (R-145) that would make the gambling instruction optional and would also require each slot machine licensee to collect a \$5 patron admission fee that will go into a restrictive account for the purpose of funding for PlanCon. Some members questioned if the latter part of the amendment was germane to the bill. Chairman Clymer **withdrew his amendment** on the agreement that he and Representative O'Brien will work collaboratively on legislation that would increase the tax on table games. Representative Aument clarified that without the amendment the bill would make gambling instruction mandatory. Representative Aument motioned to table the bill to allow the Committee more time to study the issue. HB 2082 was **tabled** with Republican members voting in the affirmative.

Senate

➤ During the week of June 9, the **Senate** acted on the following legislation:

- [House Bill 1424](#), sponsored by **Rep. Paul Clymer** (R-145), would amend the Public School Code to provide for **instruction on the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights violations**.

On June 10, the Senate **adopted on the floor** an **amendment** sponsored by **Sen. Mike Folmer** (R-48) that **removes the mandate** by changing "shall" back to the bill's original language of "may," so that each **school entity may offer instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations**. As amended, HB 1424 requires the **State Board of Education (SBE) to conduct a study** regarding the manner in which instruction in the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights violations is offered. Following the 2016-2017 school year, if the study demonstrates that **less than 90 percent** of the school entities are offering the instruction without

the mandate to do so, then the **SBE shall adopt a regulation requiring school districts to offer such instruction**. HB 1424 also would require the Department of Education (PDE) to establish curriculum guidelines, **and distribute information about appropriate curriculum materials** to each school entity. Each school entity providing the instruction would be required to provide in-service training programs that shall be made available through PDE.

The Senate **passed** HB 1424 on June 11 by a vote of [49-0-1 NV](#). The bill has been sent back to the House for a vote on concurrence to the Senate amendments.

- [House Bill 1559](#), sponsored by **Rep. Frank Farina** (D-115), would amend the Public School Code to provide for **youth suicide awareness and prevention education**. The Senate **approved the bill on concurrence with House amendments, as amended by the Senate** on June 11 by a vote of [49-0-1 NV](#).

The Senate **amendment**, sponsored by **Sen. Dominic Pileggi** (R-9), was unanimously **adopted** by the Senate Rules Committee on June 10. HB 1559 now would **require each entity to adopt youth suicide awareness and prevention policies and include four hours of training every five years for professional educators in school buildings serving students grades six through twelve**. The Department of Education must develop a model policy, guidelines, and educational materials. The bill also authorizes but does not require schools to develop an age-appropriate child exploitation awareness education program and incorporate the program into the existing curriculum for students K-8. Schools may also include child exploitation awareness training in their professional development plan.

HB 1559 has been sent back to the House for a vote on concurrence.

- On June 9, the **Senate Appropriations Committee** unanimously **reported as committed** [Senate Bill 1390](#), sponsored by **Sen. Jake Corman** (R-34). SB 1390 is a budget-related bill that would **appropriate \$41,689,000** from the **Public School Employees' Retirement Fund** to the **Public School Employees' Retirement Board** for the expenses incurred by the Board in FY 2014-15 and any bills remaining unpaid at the end of FY 2013-14. [Click here](#) to read the **fiscal note**. *SB 1390 is identical to HB 2284.*
- On June 10, the **Senate State Government Committee** unanimously **reported as amended** [Senate Bill 1240](#), sponsored by **Sen. John Yudichak** (D-14), which would **reorganize the Pennsylvania State University Board of Trustees**.

The bill would **reduce the number of members from 32 to 23**. Eight members shall be alumni elected by the alumni; five members shall be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate; five members shall represent the agricultural community; and five members shall represent the business and industry. The Board shall establish a five-member selection committee to review and recommend the business and industry individuals to be appointed to the Board. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Education shall serve as nonvoting and ex officio members of the Board. The bill prohibits the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Auditor General, State Treasurer, and University President from serving on the Board of Trustees during their terms in office.

The **amendment**, sponsored by **Sen. Jake Corman** (R-34) and unanimously **adopted**, **removes** the provision that would give the **General Assembly sole and exclusive authority** to board governance reforms, and **changes the date** of the board changes from 2014 to **2016**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Applications are available now for the 2014-2015 Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP). The Education Policy Fellowship Program is sponsored in Pennsylvania by The Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC).

With nearly 400 graduates in its first fifteen years, this Program is a premier professional development opportunity for educators, state and local policymakers, advocates, and community leaders.

State Board of Accountancy (SBA) credits are available to certified public accountants.

Past participants include state policymakers, district superintendents and principals, school business officers, school board members, education deans/chairs, statewide association leaders, parent leaders, education advocates, and other education and community leaders. Fellows are typically sponsored by their employer or another organization.

To read about the Education Policy Fellowship Program, [click here](#).

Since space is limited to approximately 30 positions, **it is advisable to submit an application as soon as possible**. The application may be copied from the EPLC website, but must be submitted by mail or scanned and e-mailed, with the necessary signatures of applicant and sponsor.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Fellowship Program and its requirements, please contact Program coordinators Mattie Robinson at 717-260-9900 or robinson@eplc.org, or Ron Cowell at 412-298-4796 or cowell@eplc.org.

EPLC NEWS

- **Register Now!** EPLC will again be hosting an **Education Issues Workshop for Legislative Candidates, Campaign Staff, and Interested Voters**. This nonpartisan, one-day program will take place on **Thursday, July 31** in Harrisburg. Space is limited. [Click here](#) to learn more about workshop and to register.
- The June episode of **Focus on Education** was broadcast on Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) on June 8 and is now available to [watch online](#). The episode discussed the legacy of **Brown v. Board of Education after 60 years**, with guests **Homer C. Floyd**, former executive director of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission; **Rhonda Brownstein, Esq.**, executive director of the Education Law Center; and **Erica Frankenberg, Ed.D.**, assistant professor in the Department of Education Policy Studies at Penn State University.

All past monthly shows are archived and available "on demand" on the EPLC *Focus on Education* webpage, [here](#).

Be a sponsor! The monthly show is an opportunity to get the name of your organization or cause in front of a statewide audience that has an interest in education issues. Introductory rates for sponsors are available now for a limited time. For more details, and to discuss your sponsorship for one or more monthly shows, please email Ron Cowell at cowell@eplc.org.

DATEBOOK

For more complete information on upcoming events, please visit www.eplc.org and click on "Events Calendar."

- The **House Education Committee** will meet on **Wednesday, June 18** at 9:30 AM in Harrisburg to consider [HB 1284](#) (Approved Private School funding).
- The **Independent Regulatory Review Commission** will meet on **Thursday, June 19** at 10:00 AM in Harrisburg to take action on [No. 3020 Regulation #58-24](#), which amends the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency's financial aid regulations.
- The **Pennsylvania Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance** will hold their **Keystone Health Promotion Conference** at Penn State Harrisburg **June 17 – 19**. Past attendees include representatives of school districts, hospitals, and other organizations/institutions who are interested in promoting healthy living for employees and/or students. Continuing education and graduate credits are available. [Click here](#) to register.
- The **2014 Annual National PTA Convention and Exhibition** will be held **June 19 – 22** in Austin, Texas. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
- **ASCD's Conference on Teaching Excellence** will be held **June 27 – 29** in Dallas, Texas. Choose from more than 150 sessions on assessment, college and career readiness, STEM, and instructional practices. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
- The **Education Commission of the States' National Forum on Education Policy** will take place **June 30 – July 2** in Washington, DC. The annual event brings together hundreds of governors, legislators, chief state school officers, higher education officials and business leaders from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three territories. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
- The **State Board of Education** will meet **July 9 – 10** in Harrisburg.
- The **Pennsylvania School Boards Association** and the **Pennsylvania School Board Solicitors Association** are hosting the **2014 School Solicitors' Symposium** in State College **July 10 – 11**. [Click here](#) for more information and to register. Register before June 16 to take advantage of the early registration discount.
- **Save the Date!** The **4th Annual Arts and Education Symposium**, sponsored by EPLC and the PA Arts Education Network, will be held in Harrisburg on **Thursday, October 2**. More details soon.

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