



December 18, 2015

## STATE BUDGET

### Budget Update

#### Senate, House expected to convene this weekend

As budget negotiations continue, the Senate and House of Representatives are expected to be in Harrisburg this weekend in another attempt toward finalizing a budget package. PSBA is a continuing presence on the Hill and is working with legislators to secure passage of issues of priority interest to public school officials.

Few additional details of the most recent work on a budget deal have been released. The House held brief session days and various meetings this week. Thursday and Friday the House considered the pension reform legislation, Senate Bill 1071, but made no further movement on state funding package, as of Friday morning.

The House has also been working behind the scenes on the omnibus school code legislation in [House Bill 530](#). The Senate passed its version late last week and it remains to be seen how the details of individual provisions will be amended by the House.

PSBA will continue to provide updates as more details are available.

## Pension Reform

### Progress on pension reform

Last week, we reported on the pension reform plans in [Senate Bill 1082](#), which contains a side-by-side hybrid plan for new school employees to enroll in a combination of a traditional defined benefit pension and a defined contribution 401(k)-type retirement plan. This week, however, the vehicle for pension reform appears to be [Senate Bill 1071](#), which was voted favorably (15 yeas, 10 nays) as amended from the House State Government Committee on Dec. 15. The amendment provides similar language to the most recent version of Senate Bill 1082, with a few changes that include:

- The 2.25% collar for 2016-17 was removed;
- Current employees would now have the option to elect into class T-G.

The impact on current employees of all classes is the same as it was in SB 1082 with respect to shared risk rates and adjusted annuity calculations for Option 4 withdrawals of lump sums.

Senate Bill 1071 just received second consideration on the House floor. It must still receive a final vote in the House of Representatives and Senate concurrence. Your support for the bill continues to be critical in

achieving landmark pension reform.

For a detailed review of Senate Bill 1071 written by the Pew Charitable Trust, please click [here](#) and for the full PSBA summary, please click [here](#).

## Latest News

### Passed by the House of Representatives

- [Teachers, administrators may receive more time to complete education requirements](#)
- [Legislation changing diabetes care in schools passes House](#)

### State News

- [NSBA Advocacy Institute](#)

### Other News

- [Standard & Poor's Credit Rating Services](#)

### Passed by the House of Representatives

#### **Teachers, administrators may receive more time to complete education requirements**

Due to the continuing budget crisis, most school districts have experienced at least some financial hardship and most have had to prioritize spending to favor continuity in student education. Because of these financial challenges, spending on the required continuing professional education plans for teachers and school districts has been halted in many districts. [House Bill 1734](#), which passed the House Education Committee Tuesday and received unanimous approval by the full House on Thursday, will aid in easing the compliance deadlines in the public school code. House Bill 1734 gives teachers and school districts a one-year extension to complete their continuing professional education requirements. Educators are required to complete at least 180 hours of professional development every five years to maintain certification. They would not have an additional year, and school districts would also receive a one-year extension (to four years), to complete their professional development plan.

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#### **Legislation changing diabetes care in schools passes House**

A bill changing the way diabetes care is provided in schools passed the House of Representatives on Dec. 17. [House Bill 1625](#) contains provisions permitting a student to self-monitor their diabetes care and allow possession and utilization of

diabetic medication and monitoring equipment if the student's health care practitioner, parents and school nurse acknowledge the student's competency. Requires the Department of Health in coordination with the Department of Education, to establish education modules and guidelines for the instruction of school employees in diabetes care and treatment. This bill allows the school nurse in consultation with the chief school administrator to designate a school employee to receive training to assist diabetic students with administering diabetes medication and with operating monitoring equipment and providing other diabetes care. The bill allows school employees to decline responsibility for education on diabetes care, and the care and treatment of a diabetic student.

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## State News

### NSBA Advocacy Institute

**Join hundreds of school board colleagues January 24 - 26, 2016 in Washington, D.C.**

Reasons to attend:

- Engage with renowned political experts for "inside the beltway" presentations on the 2016 presidential and congressional elections
- Receive in-depth briefings on the education legislative issues pending in Congress, and get fully prepared for your Capitol Hill meetings
- Increase your national network of locally elected school board colleagues

[Registration Now Open!](#) Hotel registration is only open until **January 11, 2016**.

Registering for Advocacy Institute? Come a day early and join NSBA's [Equity Symposium](#) on Saturday, January 23!

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## Other News

### Standard & Poor's Credit Rating Services

PSBA is keeping you informed. See what Pennsylvania school district officials are saying about the latest Standard & Poor's Ratings. [Full story](#)

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## Pennsylvania School Boards Association

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