



Pennsylvania School Boards Association

legislative report

October 12, 2018

The House of Representatives was in voting session this week; the Senate was not. Next week both chambers are scheduled to return to Harrisburg. In addition, House has scheduled Nov. 13 and the Senate has scheduled Nov. 14 as the last days before the end of the 2017-18 legislative session. This schedule is subject to change.

Graduation reform bill passes House, now returns to the Senate for concurrence



Key changes in requirements for high school graduation are another step closer to finalization as this week the House of Representatives unanimously passed **Senate Bill 1095** (Sen. Thomas McGarrigle, R-Chester/Delaware). Senate Bill 1095 will now return to the Senate for a concurrence vote on changes made to bill earlier by the House. If the Senate concurs next week, the measure will go to Gov. Tom Wolf for his signature.

The legislation establishes a performance-based system that provides multiple, rigorous pathways for students to show they are ready to graduate. Measures of success are appropriately aligned to a student's career goals and reflect the expectations, coursework, grades, activities and achievements earned. In addition to Keystone Exams, alternative tests and other factors can be counted toward graduation. The changes under Senate Bill 1095 would be effective beginning with the Class of 2022, students who are currently in 9th grade.

Senate Bill 1095 represents a historic, positive shift in Pennsylvania's education policy and is the culmination of extensive discussion and collaboration with PSBA and other leaders in the education community. PSBA extends its appreciation to Sen. McGarrigle for introducing Senate Bill 1095 and working with stakeholders and legislators to advance the bill.

Thank you, advocates! Your efforts over the past several months, including the many emails, calls, and posts on Twitter and Facebook, are

making the difference as Senate Bill 1095 moves toward the finish line.

Read PSBA's [new Closer Look](#) publication.
Read PSBA's [detailed summary](#) of Senate Bill 1095.

Special education certification bill headed to the governor



Legislation supported by PSBA that makes changes to the way special education teachers are certified will now be headed to the governor, as this week the House concurred in Senate amendments to [House Bill 1386](#) (Rep. Phillips-Hill, R-York).

House Bill 1386 changes the grade spans and age levels for certification of special education instructional certificates combining the current special education certificates into one category. Under the bill, all special education certificates issued after Dec. 31, 2021 would cover PK-12, or up to age 21, with no additional content or dual certification required.

Teachers holding the current special education PK-8 and special education 7-12 certificates would have the opportunity to expand the scope of their certificates under a process to be determined by the Department of Education (PDE). A teacher holding an early childhood certificate could expand the certificate to include grades 5 and 6 by obtaining qualified scores on an assessment provided by PDE.

House Bill 1386 also requires PDE to issue an annual report on the number and types of certificates issued and assessments administered. The bill also requires the Joint State Government Commission to study the issue and report on the appropriateness of the grade and age spans, the creation or elimination of certificates of endorsements, and national trends.

PSBA extends its thanks to Rep. Phillips-Hill for her efforts to address the need to provide greater flexibility for the certification of special education teachers.

Latest News

Passed by the House of Representatives

- [Sunshine Act executive session for safety](#)
- [Antihazing](#)

Amended on the House floor, awaiting further action

- [Telemedicine services](#)

Approved by the House Transportation Committee

- [School bus stop arm cameras](#)

Approved by the House Local Government Committee

- [Assessment appeal boards](#)

Passed by the House of Representatives

Sunshine Act executive session for safety

[Senate Bill 1078](#) (Sen. Tomlinson, R-Bucks) was passed by the House this week and will be headed to the governor. The bill amends the Sunshine Act to allow a public agency to discuss security measures in executive sessions. The measure is a companion to provisions under Act 39 of 2018, which amends the School Code to specifically allow public school entities to go into executive session to discuss matters related to school safety. Senate Bill 1078 extends similar provisions to all local agencies, including school entities, through changes to the Sunshine Act.

[Top](#)

Antihazing

[Senate Bill 1090](#) (Sen. Corman, R-Centre) would expand Pennsylvania's anti-hazing law to apply to, in addition to institutions of higher education, public and private secondary schools and organizations affiliated with such schools. Penalties allowed for violating school policies regarding hazing include fines, withholding of diplomas or transcripts, no longer allowing an organization to operate under the recognition of the school, probation, suspension or expulsion. Secondary schools must ensure that students are informed of the school's antihazing policy, including the rules, penalties and program of enforcement. The bill will now return to the Senate for a concurrence vote. PSBA supports Senate Bill 1090.

[Top](#)

Amended on the House floor, awaiting further action

Telemedicine services

Senate Bill 780 (Sen. Vogel, R-Beaver) was amended on the House floor and is awaiting further action. The bill authorizes licensed health care providers to practice telemedicine in accordance with provisions of the legislation and corresponding licensure board regulations. The bill defines "telemedicine" as the delivery of health care services provided to a patient by a health care provider who is at a different location. "Telemedicine technologies" is defined as electronic information and telecommunications technology, including, but not limited to, interactive audio and video, remote patient monitoring, and store-and-forward, that meets the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act).

The bill was amended on the House floor this week to require a health insurer to reimburse a health care provider that is a participating network provider for both in-person and telemedicine services in accordance with the terms and conditions of an agreement between the insurer and the participating provider. Reimbursement shall not be conditioned upon the use of an exclusive telemedicine platform or telemedicine vendor.

[Top](#)

Approved by the House Transportation Committee

School bus stop arm cameras

As amended by the committee, **Senate Bill 1098** (Sen. Browne, R-Lehigh) amends the Vehicle Code to allow, but not require, the installation of automated side stop arm cameras on school buses. School districts and bus drivers may use the photos or videos to capture violations of drivers failing to stop when the red signals are flashing, and the stop arms are activated. The bill includes numerous provisions regarding implementation and enforcement. Violators must pay a \$35 surcharge in addition to the fine; money collected from the surcharges would be earmarked for a new School Bus Safety Grant Program Fund to be used to increase school bus safety education and training. School districts and independent school bus contractors are eligible for the grant. The Department of Transportation would promulgate regulations.

[Top](#)

Approved by the House Local Government Committee

Assessment appeal boards

Senate Bill 1007 (Sen. Eichelberger, R-Blair) provides for the training and qualifications of the assessment appeal board and auxiliary appeal board members. The bill also updates the appeals process and notifications to property owners. PSBA supports Senate Bill 1007.

[Top](#)

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