



Pennsylvania School Boards Association

legislative report

April 12, 2019

The General Assembly was in session this week. The House of Representatives is scheduled to be in session next week and the Senate is scheduled to return on April 29.

Advocate for your schools -- Join us at the Capitol on April 29 for Advocacy Day



Do these issues impact your schools? 1) Education funding, 2) State reimbursement for school construction and PlanCon reform, and 3) Reform for tuition payments to cyber charter schools. Join with school directors, superintendents and intermediate unit directors at the Capitol in Harrisburg on April 29 for **Advocacy Day**.

This is your day on the Hill to meet with legislators to discuss critical issues impacting your schools. There is no cost to attend, and PSBA will schedule your appointments with legislators once your registration is received. The day will begin with a continental breakfast and issue briefings prior to the legislator visits. Registrants will receive materials and leave-behinds to use with their meetings.

To hear more details on the day's agenda, watch [this episode of Video Edition](#).

School boards are adopting resolutions on cyber charter reform - has yours?

Charter Reform

PSBA is asking your school board to join the growing number of boards that have adopted resolutions calling for reforms to the funding system for cyber charter schools and to support legislation that would provide relief to districts that operate their own cyber learning programs.

School boards across the state are telling their legislators that the current funding formula for cyber charters isn't working. Overpayments to cybers they did not authorize is having a dramatic impact on district budgets. In addition, boards are supporting [Senate Bill 34](#) and [House Bill 526](#) that provide relief for districts that offer their own high-performing cyber education programs. For more information on these bills, [click here](#).

Here are the two sample resolutions for school boards to adopt. One is specific to the proposed legislation, and the other addresses the overarching need for cyber charter school funding reform.

- [Sample resolution in support of Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526](#)
- [Sample resolution in support of statewide cyber charter school funding reform](#)

If your board has not already done so, please adopt one or both of the resolutions at your next board meeting. After you adopt the resolution, send it to your legislators in the Senate and House of Representatives, post it on PennLink, share with your community in your newsletters and social media, and send a copy to Jamie.zuvich@psba.org at PSBA. Click here for contact information for the [Senate](#) and the [House of Representatives](#).

Latest News

Passed by the House of Representatives

- [Lawsuits related to child sexual abuse](#)

Approved by the House Transportation Committee

- [Optional flashing lights for school vehicles](#)

Passed by the Senate

- [Keystone Telepresence Education Grant Program](#)

Approved by the House Children and Youth Committee

- [Opioid impact on children](#)

Approved by the Senate State Government Committee

- [Redistricting commission](#)

PSBA News

- [June 28 deadline: Submit your board's proposals for PSBA's 2020 Legislative Platform](#)

Passed by the House of Representatives

Lawsuits related to child sexual abuse

Two companion bills were passed by the House this week.

[House Bill 962](#) (Rep. Rozzi, D-Berks) amends the Judicial Code to eliminate the statute of limitations on future child sexual abuse cases if the victim was under the age of 18 at the time of the offense. The bill also extends the time that an individual is entitled to pursue civil action from 12 to 37 years after reaching 18 years old (up to age 55). Further, sovereign and governmental immunity shall not apply with respect to offenses committed, if the conduct of the entity that caused injury to the plaintiff constitutes gross negligence. House Bill 962 becomes effective following the first passage of House Bill 963 by both chambers of the General Assembly.

[House Bill 963](#) (Rep. Gregory, R-Blair) proposes an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution to provide a two-year window from the effective date of the act for lawsuits against the state in cases regarding childhood sexual abuse in instances where the statute of limitations has expired. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

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Approved by the House Transportation Committee

Optional flashing lights for school vehicles

[House Bill 364](#) (Rep. Gabler, R-Clearfield) amends the Vehicle Code to authorize the use of revolving and flashing yellow lights for school vehicles smaller than school buses that transport school students, such as vans and

mini-vans. Under current law, school vehicles are not considered authorized vehicles for the purposes of visual signals such as revolving and flashing yellow lights. School vehicles would not be required to have the lights.

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Passed by the Senate

Keystone Telepresence Education Grant Program

[Senate Bill 144](#) (Sen. Martin, R-Lancaster) establishes the Keystone Telepresence Education Grant, which will give the state's 29 intermediate units access to a maximum of \$300,000 in funds to purchase telepresence equipment to support homebound students facing serious medical conditions.

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Approved by the House Children and Youth Committee

Opioid impact on children

[House Bill 316](#) (Rep. Owlett, R-Tioga) authorizes the establishment of a Task Force that will focus on the impact of the opioid abuse epidemic on children. The Task Force will be directed to identify strategies and make short- and long-term recommendations to prioritize the prevention of substance-exposed infants; to improve outcomes for pregnant and parenting women striving to recover from addiction; and to promote the health, safety and permanency of substance-exposed infants and other young children at-risk of child abuse and neglect, or placement in foster care due to parental alcohol and drug abuse.

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Approved by the Senate State Government Committee

Redistricting commission

[Senate Bill 22](#) (Sen. Boscola, D-Northampton) is a Joint Resolution to amend the state Constitution to change how Congressional and General Assembly election maps are drawn. The bill establishes an 11-member Independent Reappointment and Redistricting Commission and provides for the qualifications for members and the responsibilities of commission's operations. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

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PSBA News

June 28 deadline: Submit your board's proposals for PSBA's 2020 Legislative Platform

Your school board can help to shape PSBA's legislative agenda by submitting proposals for the 2020 Legislative Platform. With the platform adoption process

now open, now is the time to bring this issue up for discussion at your next board meeting so that your items can be drafted, approved and submitted to PSBA by the **June 28** deadline.

Proposals will be presented to the PSBA Platform Committee on July 27 for consideration. The recommendations of the Platform Committee are then considered by the Delegate Assembly on Oct. 18 for final determination. Click here for [information on the process](#) and [the guidelines](#) for submitting platform proposals. Questions about the platform submission process should be directed to Cindy Eckerd by telephone at (717) 506-2450, ext. 3319; or via email at cindy.eckerd@psba.org

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Pennsylvania School Boards Association

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