



Pennsylvania School Boards Association

legislative report

April 18, 2019

The House of Representatives was in session this week; the Senate was in recess. Both chambers are scheduled to return on April 29.



Your public education advocacy efforts are important

As we inch closer to the June 30 deadline for the new state budget, your advocacy efforts will make a difference. Talk to your legislators now to discuss the following issues and recommendations impacting school districts:

Support these minimum investments for school districts in the 2019-20 state budget:

- \$200 million increase for the basic education funding (BEF) line item
- \$50 million increase for special education
- \$10 million increase for career and technical education that goes to CTE classrooms
- \$60 million increase to address school safety and security initiatives

Support legislation to address charter school funding reforms:

- Reform the funding formula for cyber charter schools based on actual costs
- Support House Bill 526 and Senate Bill 34 that provide funding relief for school districts that offer their own full-time cyber education program

Support funding for school construction projects and PlanCon reform:

- Annual state funding to ensure reimbursement for school construction projects; create a set-aside for school safety needs
- Modernize the PlanCon approval process for projects to simplify procedures; authorize a new reimbursement formula

A growing number of school boards across the state have adopted PSBA's two sample resolutions addressing charter school funding:

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

PSBA encourages your board to adopt these resolutions if you have not done so already. Send them 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** & the **House of Representatives**.

Latest News

Passed by the House of Representatives

- [Lawsuits related to child sexual abuse](#)
- [Employing minors to perform music](#)

Approved by the House Children and Youth Committee

- [Education records](#)

Approved by the House Education Committee

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Passed by the House of Representatives

Lawsuits related to child sexual abuse

Two bills were passed by the House this week. These bills are part of the four-bill package that was introduced; the House recently passed the other two bills, [House Bill 962](#) (Rep. Rozzi, D-Berks) and [House Bill 963](#) (Rep. Gregory, R-Blair).

Passed this week were [House Bill 1051](#) (Rep. Stevens, R-Montgomery), which increases penalties for a mandated reporter who is willfully failing to report suspected ongoing child abuse by a person who has direct contact with children through employment, program, activity or service. [House Bill 1171](#) (Rep. Toohill, R-Luzerne) specifies that civil confidentiality agreements with abuse victims do not cover communications with law enforcement.

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Employing minors to perform music

[House Bill 561](#) (Rep. Delozier, R- Cumberland) amends the Liquor Code to allow minors of any age to perform music in a licensed liquor establishment so long as they are not paid and supervised by a parent. Currently, Pennsylvania law only allows student musicians receiving instruction to perform in exhibition at hotels, restaurants or clubs with a liquor license or any retail dispenser provided they have the proper supervision.

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Approved by the House Children and Youth Committee

Education records

[House Bill 835](#) (Rep. Petrarca, D-Westmoreland) authorizes Children and Youth Services caseworkers to request and have access to all records as part of an investigation concerning a child. This includes school records, medical

records, records of drug and alcohol treatment, and mental health treatment. Parental consent or any other release is not required to obtain the records that are requested by the county agency.

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Approved by the House Education Committee

Expanded student access to military recruiters

[House Bill 239](#) (Rep. Readshaw, D-Allegheny) amends Act 10 of 1991 regarding military recruiter access to high school seniors. The bill expands the list of school entities required to comply with the requirements to include school districts, intermediate units, career and technical education schools, charter and cyber charter schools, and any nonpublic school that receives funding under the federal ESSA act. In addition, the bill defines secondary school students to include juniors in 11th grade. The requirements are optional for nonpublic schools that do not receive ESSA funding. House Bill 239 brings Pennsylvania into compliance with federal requirements.

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Updating terminology in the School Code

[House Bill 1196](#) (Rep. Harkins, D-Erie) updates outdated terminology in the School Code related to children with physical and mental disabilities and updates other terminology.

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Repeal of outdated provisions in the School Code

[House Bill 1210](#) (Rep. Jones, R-York) repeals numerous outdated provisions of the School Code.

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Older adult mentor volunteer program

The committee re-referred **[House Bill 298](#)** (Rep. Solomon, D-Philadelphia) to the Aging & Older Adult Services Committee for consideration. The bill allows school entities to establish a program for qualified older adult volunteers to work directly with students before, during or after school hours, in school buildings and facilities and on school grounds. The Department of Education (PDE) would develop guidelines for the program and maintain a central registry of older adult volunteers to facilitate matching volunteers with students.

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Approved by the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Changes to the regulatory review process

[House Bill 430](#) (Rep. Benninghoff, R-Centre) gives the General Assembly the authority to initiate the repeal of any regulation currently in effect by concurrent resolution. Both the House and the Senate would need to approve the resolution, as well as the governor. **[House Bill 806](#)** (Rep. Keefer, R-York) requires the General Assembly to approve an economically significant proposed regulation, defined as costing more than \$1 million to implement, before it could become effective.

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Considered by the House Finance Committee

Homeschoolers access to CTCs

The committee re-referred **[House Bill 1087](#)** (Rep. Nesbit, R-Mercer) to the Education Committee for consideration. The bill authorizes homeschooled students to attend a career and technical institute (CTC), with or without the school district's consent, and at the district's expense. Students would need the consent of the CTC prior to enrolling.

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Approved by the House Local Government Committee

Swaps and derivatives restrictions

The House Local Government Committee approved a package of bills that would place restrictions on local government entities, including school districts, from entering into financial interest rate management agreements, commonly known as "swaps" or "derivatives." Among the bills of interest in the package are: **[House Bill 320](#)** (Rep. Ryan, R-Lebanon) which restricts the use of swaps/derivatives agreements; **[House Bill 882](#)** (Rep. Gleim, R-Cumberland) tightens the state's oversight of municipal debt borrowings by requiring a review before debt is incurred and make other changes; and **[House Bill 885](#)** (Rep. Gaydos, R-Allegheny) bans local governments from using alternative securities instruments.

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Approved by the House State Government Committee

Forensic and fraud audits

[House Bill 985](#) (Rep. Ryan, R-Lebanon) allows the state auditor general to conduct forensic and fraud audits on an entity when requested by a state agency, the governor, the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House, or if there is an indication that there is not sufficient information to complete an audit in progress. House Bill 985 also calls for employees of the auditor general to be certified in conducting forensic and fraud audits.

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Breach of information

The committee reported out and re-referred [House Bill 1181](#) (Rep. Fritz, R-Susquehanna) to the House Commerce Committee. The bill amends the Breach of Personal Information Notification Act (BPINA) to require additional notifications of a breach from the entity where the breach occurred to the affected consumer. The entities must also develop policies to safeguard and discard personal consumer information. If a county, municipality or school district has a breach, they must report the breach to their county district attorney.

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Pennsylvania School Boards Association

400 Bent Creek Blvd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

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