



PAACC Pennsylvania Update

May 1, 2018

PAACC State Capitol Snap Shot

Several bills passed the House, which aim to address business and industry workforce shortages and alleviate the stigma attached to career and technical education. The bills are all included in the legislative report.

Governor Wolf held a press conference on April 30th to announce a bi-partisan package of legislation to implement a severance tax along with DEP permitting reform. Representative Bernie O'Neill and Representative Jake Wheatley will introduce House Bill 2253. Additionally, Senator John Yudichak and Senator Thomas Killion plan to introduce Senate Bill 1000. Please note these bills are not yet in print. Governor Wolf continues to push for a commonsense, reasonable severance tax in order to fund education, transportation and mass transit, which Pennsylvanian's want and deserve.

Pennsylvania's Primary election will be held May 15th. This year is a Gubernatorial Election Year in Pennsylvania. In addition to the Governor's race, all 203 House Seats and 25 Senate Seats are up for re-election. We are seeing more members – particularly House Republican members – announcing their retirements this year.

Following are the links for more information about each gubernatorial candidate:

Governor Tom Wolf

Laura Ellsworth

Paul Mango

Scott Wagner

The House and Senate have limited sessions days scheduled in the month of May. House is scheduled to be in May 1, 2, 22, 23 and the Senate is scheduled for May 21, 22, 23. Both the House and Senate will be in the entire month of June as they negotiate to complete a budget by the Constitutional deadline of June 30th.

PAACC Legislative Report*

Workforce Development

HB 25 (Mackenzie) passed the House by a vote of 194-1. On April 30, it was sent to the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor and Industry. CareerBound encourages collaboration between schools, businesses, and the workforce system. In many ways, this program will function in a similar way to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC), but with a focus on workforce development programs for middle and high school students.

Under CareerBound, local workforce investment boards, businesses, and schools will work together to develop innovate school-to-work programs. These joint ventures will provide students early exposure to an array of career opportunities, including career expos, job shadowing, internships and other career-education integration initiatives.

The seven school-to-work pilot programs that are approved for participation in CareerBound will be eligible to compete for more than \$10 million in funding that will be generated through the one-time issuance of tax credits for contributing businesses. Like the EITC, contributing businesses that participate in the program will be eligible for a 90% return on contributions; all other taxpayers that contribute will be eligible for a 75% return.

The following bills make up the Career and Technical Education (CTE) legislative package. This package of legislation is a result of the recommendations of the Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness (Select Committee) established pursuant to HR 102 of 2015.

- HB 2155 (Bloom) passed the House by a vote of 192-0 on April 30. Currently, Pennsylvania requires 78 credits for a Vocational Instructional II Certificate. This drastically exceeds the requirements of many other states, which makes it difficult to recruit needed teachers in Pennsylvania.

This legislation would allow the 18 credits required to obtain a Vocational I Certificate to be counted toward the total credit hours required for a Vocational Instructional I Certificate and reduce the total number of credits required from 78 to 60. Additionally, the legislation would increase the years of wage-earning experience in the occupation to be taught from 2 to 4 to further ensure that the CTE is qualified in their field.

*Information for the Legislative Report was derived from each bill's co-sponsorship memo and the bill text.

- HB 2156, the Career and Technical Education Partnership Tax Credit Program (Tobash), is currently in the House Appropriations Committee. Specifically, this proposal provides tax credits to businesses that contribute to career and technical partnership organizations. Business contributions can be used to provide career and technical education scholarships or the purchasing of industry standard equipment. This program is unique yet modeled after successful elements of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program.

There are almost 200,000 unfilled skilled jobs in PA. This bill will partner business investment with our career and technical education students and secondary and postsecondary institutions to fill those position and grow our Commonwealth's economy.

In order to grow the PA economy, it is imperative that we connect our education system with the needs of job creators. This legislation specifically acknowledges our economy's need for more individuals with skills in the trades.

- HB 2157 (Grove) passed the House by a vote of 192-0 on April 30. The legislation codifies an existing pilot program to expedite the classification of instructional programs (CIPs).

Prior to the establishment of this pilot program, 10 public schools were required to apply to the PA Department of Education (PDE) for a new CIP. This was time-consuming and burdensome on schools that sought to offer specialized programs to respond to industry and workforce demands. With the establishment of the three-year pilot program—which is set to expire this year—only one school is required to apply for a CIP in order to be considered.

This bill would make this pilot program permanent and require PDE to establish a standard application for a public school entity including a school district, charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit, or area vocational-technical school—to seek approval to establish or renew a CIP.

Additionally, the bill requires PDE to issue guidelines to identify the circumstances when a student who successfully completes a course, program, or activity in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) for credit may apply the credit toward completion of a course, program or activity offered by an area vocational-technical school, technical institution or vocational school or department.

Finally, the newly established Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence will be required to issue guidelines for circumstances under which a student who successfully completes an academic course,

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program or activity for credit may apply the credit toward completion of an agriculture education program.

- HB 2158 (Mako) passed the House by a vote of 192-0 on April 30. This legislation aims to increase awareness of workforce needs and opportunities. Specifically, this proposal requires the PA Department of Education to develop materials outlining workforce needs including training opportunities and future earning potential. In addition, school entities will allow for community colleges and other technical and/or trade schools to attend career/college fairs.
- HB 2159 (Staats) passed the House by a vote of 192-0 on April 30. Under current law, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has established an electronic database and portal that displays articulation agreements entered into by community colleges, institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), and institutions that elect to participate. However, many more articulation agreements exist in addition to the ones displayed on the database and portal.

This legislation would require all public schools — including school districts, intermediate units, area vocational-technical schools, charter schools, regional charter schools, and cyber charter schools — as well as the Rural Regional College, state-related institutions, and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology to submit their articulation agreements to PDE to be included in the database. All other institutions can elect to submit articulation agreements to PDE. This information would then be posted in a meaningful, user-friendly and interactive search engine that is available to the public.

- HB 2203 regarding Online Career Resource Center (Harkins) passed the House by a vote of 192-0 on April 30. Under this legislation, the Departments of Education (PDE), Labor and Industry (L&I) and Agriculture will develop and maintain a comprehensive online career resource center for students, parents, educators, and school officials to provide information on the value and impact of CTE, career pathways, data and statistics on employment opportunities and compensation, postsecondary options and statewide and regional articulation agreements.

The goal of this legislation is to ensure that when it comes to making informed decisions about education and careers, students and parents are equipped with relevant and meaningful knowledge and tools that can help thoughtfully guide this decision-making process. It is imperative that CTE information be easily accessible to students, parents, educators, and other school officials and this legislation will be the catalyst to create that tool.

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- HB 2204 (Mullery) passed the House by a vote of 191-0 on April 30. Under this legislation, the Department of Education (PDE) and the Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) would conduct a complete inventory of existing workforce development programs at both the secondary and postsecondary levels with particular emphasis on opportunities for business-education partnerships with the goal being to share those best practices learned with the various entities to help improve the delivery of career focused opportunities.
- HB 2206 (Roebuck) passed the House by a vote of 191-0 on April 30. It was discovered during the Select Committees hearing process that each Workforce Development Board (WDB) engages with CTE in various ways across the Commonwealth and given that WDBs are the channel through which employment information and data flows from the state to local school districts and CTCs, the partnership between these entities needs addressed.

In an effort to strengthen the lines of communication between local secondary CTE programs and WDBs, it would be beneficial for WDBs to consistently engage with these stakeholders through their participation on their boards.

Under this legislation, each local WDB would be required to include in its membership at least one administrator of a career and technical center whose attendance area is covered by the service area of the WDB.

This effort will ensure that local communication with WDBs is consistent across the commonwealth to improve delivery of their technical programs

Economic Development

HB 584 (Gillespie) passed the House by a vote of 189-5. It was sent to the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Community, Economic & Recreational Development on April 11. The legislation allows a municipality with a population of more than 10,000, or two or more contiguous municipalities located in the same county and meeting the 10,000 population to create community development authorities that will develop blighted, low-income neighborhoods and to create jobs. The bill also encourages collaboration among existing authorities and redevelopment authorities to operate a community development authority through intergovernmental cooperation agreements.

A community development authority will issue loans to micro-enterprises. Funding for these loans will be through a mechanism of fees, fines and private partnerships, thereby making the program self-sustaining. Specifically, a municipality that establishes a community development fund shall deposit \$5 of every \$100 generated through violations of a building code, \$5 of every \$100 collected in fines for zoning violations, \$5 of every \$100 collected in building permit fees and \$2 of every \$100 collected in liens on

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blighted property. This bill does not require any state appropriations and contains no tax credits.

Additional key features of the bill include: A requirement for loan applicants to undergo business development training through providers approved by the authority board; Accountability and transparency, as the authority is subject to our Open Meetings and Right-to-Know laws and is required to provide public access to its land inventory list.

Gaming

Having passed the House in 2017, HB 864 (Mustio) was voted favorably from the Senate Committee on Community, Economic & Recreational Development on April 24 and will be considered by the full Senate.

This legislation will amend the Local Option Small Games of Chance statute to permit an airport system located in a County of the Second Class in Allegheny County to conduct 50-50 raffles. The Allegheny County Airport Authority Charitable Foundation (ACAA), will be the designated charity to receive the revenues generated from the non-winner share of the proceeds.

The ACAA Foundation is active in the community and will support at the Airport:

- Military & Veterans Affairs – The Airport Military Comfort Room provides a destination and place for US Soldiers and Veterans that are traveling to have a place to rest and eat.
- Children's Venues – The Airport has children's facilities such as a playground (kids-port) and associations with such children's programming as Mister Rogers Neighborhood.
- Art – A large component of the Airport is several art exhibits and close work with the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, as well as the Andy Warhol Museum.
- History and Culture – The Airport has several historic exhibits which detail components of our region, including national history such as the Tuskegee Airmen Exhibit.

The ACAA is constantly working with charity and civic stakeholders for the betterment of the airport and flying public. The ACAA recognizes that the standing of the Airport in the community means being a good civic partner and engaging in charity work and community involvement. This component of charitable focus will allow needed upgrades and expansion to current and new charitable works at the Pittsburgh International Airport and extensions within the community.

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