



PAACC Pennsylvania Update

April 3, 2018

PAACC State Capitol Snap Shot

The Senate and House wrapped up their Appropriation budget hearings with the various agency cabinet secretaries and the Secretary of the Budget. The hearings focused on the Governor's proposed budget priorities he presented in February as well as various departmental funding needs. The House Appropriations hearings had another component to their hearings in which they focus on jobs/workforce development.

The Senate and House had a light session schedule this month. The House was in March 12, 13 and 14, while the Senate was in session March 19, 20, 21, 26 and 27. The most notable bill passed by the House was the bill to reduce the size of the General Assembly. The bill would have to pass both chambers in two consecutive sessions and placed on the ballot for voter referendum.

General Fund revenues did not meet expectations for the month of March. Although, with this shortfall, the year-to-date General Fund revenue total remains \$221.7M, or 0.9 percent, ahead of estimate. March and April are historically two of the largest revenue months in any fiscal year. A large portion of the shortfall this month was due to corporation taxes coming up \$121.4 million, or about 5.2 percent, short of expectations.

The Governor, as well as the Secretary of Labor & Industry and Secretary of Education, have been traveling the state to highlight the Governor's PAsmart initiative. This is the \$50 million initiative to align workforce development efforts across commonwealth agencies to more efficiently deliver services; including \$40 million in STEM and computer science related education, as well as \$10 million through Labor and Industry to expand apprenticeships and industry partnership investments. Additionally, Governor Wolf launched the new website for the initiative.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.8 percent, which is above the national rate of 4.1 percent.

Governor Wolf announced a voting reform package. This package includes, but is not limited to, voting rights reforms, new campaign finance laws, restrictions on Political Action Committees, and redistricting reforms.

Governor Wolf also announced a new initiative that will expand broadband access to businesses and households in Pennsylvania, ensuring that every Pennsylvanian has access to high-speed internet.

Senate session schedule for April: 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25

House session schedule for April: 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 30