



PAACC Pennsylvania Update

April 2, 2019

PAACC State Capitol Snap Shot

With Three Mile Island's pending closure, legislation to assist the nuclear power industry has been a major topic of discussion at the Capitol. Exelon would close the facility, which employs 600 people, by Sept. 30, 2019 unless it receives assistance from the state. Several bills have been introduced in the General Assembly that would incorporate nuclear energy into the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act — a 2004 law that requires a percentage of electricity to come from alternative sources. Supporters of the bills say that it's vital that the state maintains its diversified energy sources, while opponents call it a bail out. The legislature will be focused on this debate over the next couple of months.

On March 19, Rep. Brian Ellis (R-Butler) resigned his seat amid a pending sexual assault investigation. The Republican and Democratic parties have chosen their respective candidates for 11th District seat: Democrats chose Sam Doctor, a steelworker; and Republicans chose Marci Mustello, district scheduler for U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Butler). The special election will take place on May 21, the same day as the Pennsylvania primary.

The parties also selected their candidates for the 41st Senatorial District special election. Joe Pittman, chief of staff for former state Sen. Don White (R-Indiana), was chosen by the Republicans, while Susan Boser, a professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, was chosen by the Democrats. The special election will be to fill Senator Don White's (R-Indiana) seat after his retirement in February. The special election will take place on May 21, the same day as the Pennsylvania primary.

On April 2, the special election for the 37th Pennsylvania Senate district, covering the southern and western suburbs of Allegheny and a portion of Washington County, will be held. Former Senator Guy Reschenthaler resigned the seat at the end of 2018 to be sworn into Congress. Republican D. Raja and Democrat Pam Iovino are the candidates.

Workforce Development

CareerBound Act Passes House

The CareerBound Act, HB 425, passed the House on March 20 by a vote of 192-1. It was referred to the Senate Labor and Industry Committee on March 28.

The bill provides for school-to-work programs; establishing the CareerBound program. The CareerBound program will be administered by the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) in conjunction with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the Department of Education (PDE) and that statewide Workforce Investment Board (WIB).

Under the program, DLI will empower local WIBs, school partners, and business partners to collaboratively develop school-to-work pilot programs in order to:

- provide students with career exploration opportunities and exposure to HPOs;
- provide local WIBs with the necessary funding and support to implement the pilot programs;
- provide business partners an opportunity to develop collaborative relationships with school partners and local WIBs;
- provide school partners with the funds and framework to deliver a relevant curriculum to students and prepare them for high-priority occupations;
- provide program partners with informational resources to help them conduct successful school-to-work pilot programs.

Career & Technical Education Incentive Program Passes House

HB 522 passed the House on March 19, with a vote of 162-34. It was received in the Senate on March 28 and referred to the Senate Education committee.

HB 522 amends the Public School Code adding an article providing for the Career and Technical Education Investment Incentive Program. The intent of the program is to foster and encourage private investment in career and technical education programs and the repair, upkeep, replacement and upgrading of industry-grade materials and instructional equipment. 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.

Workforce Development Package Passes House

A package of workforce development bills – HB 393, HB 394, HB 395, and HB 396 – passed the House in March. The four bills passed unanimously. House Bills 393, 394, and 395 were referred to the Senate Education Committee; HB 396 was referred to the Senate Labor and Industry Committee.

HB 393 requires the Department of Education (PDE), in consultation with the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Agriculture, to create and annually update an easily accessible online clearinghouse, by the 2021-2022 school year, that includes, at a minimum:

- postsecondary pathways and options;
- career and technical education and workforce opportunities;
- career pathways;
- data and statistics on employment opportunities and compensation;
- statewide and regional articulation agreements; and
- other relevant career resources.

HB 394 requires the Department of Education (PDE), in consultation with the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I), to conduct an inventory to determine the number and types of workforce development programs offered at secondary and postsecondary institutions. PDE, in consultation with L&I, may also compile a clearinghouse of model programs discovered during the inventory.

HB 395 requires career and technical education programs to establish Occupational Advisory Committees. The Committee shall meet at least twice each year to:

- Advise the board of directors, administrators and staff on curriculum, equipment, instructional materials, safety requirements, program evaluation, and other related matters; and
- Verify that the programs meet industry standards and, if appropriate, licensing board criteria, and that the programs prepare students with occupation-related competencies.

HB 396 would ensure that at least one member of a workforce development board is a local administrator of a career and technical center.

Business & Industry

Microenterprise Loan Program Passes House

HB 324 establishes the microenterprise loan program, with the goal of offering municipalities an additional economic development and revitalization tool that addresses unemployment through the advancement of microenterprises developed

via public-private partnerships. The bill defines "microenterprise" as a business operated by a sole proprietor, worker cooperative corporation or single-member limited liability companies that employs one to five employees who are PA residents, is not owned by another LLC or business entity, and has the qualifying amount of capital provided under the federal Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. The program is to be run by an "administrative entity", defined to include specific community redevelopment, municipal authorities, and community development financial institutions which can administer the program.

The bill passed the House on March 18 by a vote of 192-2 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Community, Economic, and Recreational Development.

Healthy Employee/Healthy Workplace Act

On March 19, Senator Hughes introduced SB 13, known as the "Healthy Employee/Healthy Workplace Act," which would require every employer in the Commonwealth to provide paid sick leave to employees. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Labor and Industry.

Infrastructure

Public Transportation Flexibility & Working Group

On March 27, Senator Kim Ward, the Majority Chair for the Senate Transportation Committee, circulated a co-sponsorship memo for legislation she plans to introduce that would give counties more flexibility to support public transportation. The legislation would broaden authority and responsibility for counties to support public transportation in their regions. This legislation is affiliated with the Working Group that Sen. Ward announced on March 20, to help address the complex issues facing the state's interconnected transportation system. The Working Group will help to review and prioritize the various options available to counties that require legislative action by the General Assembly.

Military

Academic Credit for Military Training

On March 26, Rep. Timothy J. O'Neal circulated a co-sponsorship memo to re-introduce legislation that requires public institutions of higher learning to grant academic credit to our military personnel. Based on their military experiences and training, our military personnel and veterans may have college credit recommendations that can be applied towards a degree requirement or program of study. The American Council on Education (ACE) works under a contract from the Department of Defense that is administered by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) to conduct and facilitate academic reviews of military courses and occupations. Schools rely on ACE to review various types of military training and experience and recommend how to translate them into academic credits;

however, as with transfers, each school makes the final decision on how much credit, if any, to award. These are recommendations and schools choose whether or not to accept the recommendations made by ACE.

Rep. O'Neal's legislation would require the public institutions to adopt a policy to award academic credit for military training, if it is recommended by a national higher education association, noted on the student's military transcript or documented in writing by any of the armed forces of the United States.

Session Calendar

2019 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

January	1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30
February	4, 5, 6
March	18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
April	8, 9, 10, 29, 30
May	1, 6, 7, 8
June	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

2019 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

January	1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30
February	4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 21
March	11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
April	8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30
May	1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23 (Cancelled)
June	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28