

## **General Assembly Concludes State Budget Hearings.**

### **Senate Education Committee Move Four Bills**

With the appropriations hearings on the state budget now concluded, the General Assembly returned to Harrisburg this month. Moving forward, the Senate has scheduled 25 voting session days for April, May, and June while the House will have 27 days on the calendar.

The Senate Education Committee met last week and sent four bills to the Senate floor consideration. [Senate Bill 128](#) and [Senate Bill 378](#) were approved along party lines. [Senate Bill 402](#) and [Senate Bill 835](#) received bi-partisan support.

SB 128 will require school entities to post curriculum information online. The bill mandates that a school entity post a link or title “for every textbook used by the school entity, a course syllabus or a written summary of each instructional course and the State academic standards for each instructional course offered by the school entity”.... If enacted the mandate will take effect for the 2026-27 school year. Schools will have 30 days to repost information for revised or new curricula. Prime sponsor of the bill, Senator Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin) says the intent is to provide parents with better information about their child’s education. “Openness and transparency should be promoted in all facets of our taxpayer funded government entities and that especially includes local schools.”

SB 378 (prime sponsor Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, R-York) creates a comprehensive state and school district protocol for student records. At the state level, the position of Chief Data Privacy Officer in PDE to coordinate policies, procedures, and reporting by all schools. The bill requires school entities to “adopt and implement reasonable security policies and procedures to protect educational records and student data...to protect information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure. (2) Designate an individual to act as a student data manager to fulfill the responsibilities under this section. (3) Create, maintain and submit to the chief data privacy officer under the department a data governance plan addressing the protection of existing data and future data records.” If enacted, the bill would be effective six months after being signed into law.

Senate Bill 402 provides for voluntary administration of emergency anti-seizure medication to students with epilepsy. According to the legislation, it is the intent of the General Assembly that licensed health care professionals train and supervise employees of school districts and charter schools to administer an emergency anti-seizure medication

to children with epilepsy in public schools. Prime sponsor of the bill is Senator David Argall, (R-Schuylkill).

SB 835 (Prime Sponsor Senator Tracy Pennycuick (R-Montgomery) carries a requirement for schools to display the POW/MIA flag in the same manner as the flag of the United States. If enacted, the bill would take effect in six months.

What happens next? The bills will move to the Senate floor and if passed they will move to the House Education Committee. With Republican support in committee, the bills are likely to receive floor approval. The bills that moved in committee by a party line vote will face a more difficult road to approval in the House and may not receive consideration in the House Ed Committee. With the budget season in full bloom, there will be tradeoffs by the chambers usually clearing the way for at least a few Republican bills to move in the House and Democratic legislation to be considered in the Senate.

### ***Signed Into Law***

[House Bill 17](#) which adds cursive writing to the required subjects of instruction under the School Code has been signed into law by Governor Shapiro as Act 2 of 2026. You can read more about the bill by [clicking here](#). The effective date of the new law is April 13. There is no time line in the legislation for implementation.