

General Assembly Returns—Eleven Session Days Remain

The House and Senate return to session today with a voting schedule of 11 days until sine die adjournment in November. With the focus on the November statewide election looming, it is unlikely there will be significant legislative activity as the two year session winds down.

There are issues to be tackled such as data center limitations and skill game regulation but the likelihood of finding an agreement is not high given the election focus and the Constitutionally required end of November adjournment. There are two education bills on the Senate Calendar that may get moved to the House. [Senate Bill 127](#) will impose mandatory instruction on Holocaust, genocide, and human rights violations Instruction in the School Code. SB 127 is a reintroduction of legislation that was approved by the Senate Education Committee last session.

Also, on the Senate Calendar is [Senate Bill 720](#). The bill would require an ophthalmologist or an optometrist to conduct the initial vision examination for students entering school for the first time.

Another potential issue that may see legislative action is the requirement for schools to transport charter students. A Supreme Court decision in [Bell v. Wilkinsburg School District](#), [313 A.3d 486](#) upheld the school district's decision to transport charter students via public transportation rather than using the district's transportation system.

The court said that a mandate applied to transport charter students but the law did not require the district to transport charter students by the exact same method used to transport its own students. The decision states, *The School District, in its discretion, may provide any of the four modes of transportation listed in Section 1362; Section 1726-A does not require identical transportation for school district students and charter school students.*