



Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

Legislative Action Alert

Taking care of the business of schools...everyday

LEGISLATIVE REPORT MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011

- **Too Many Issues, Not Enough Time.**—The Legislature returns to session this week. The House has scheduled three session weeks before the Holiday break and the Senate two weeks. [CLICK HERE](#) for session and committee schedule information.

Congressional reapportionment is the top issue because it needs to be completed before the legislature recesses so that the districts are established and candidates can begin to circulate nominating petitions in January. Unlike state legislative reapportionment, a bill needs to pass the House and Senate and be signed by the Governor.

Passing legislation dealing with the various Shale issues is still on the table and consuming a lot of staff time. It isn't clear whether an agreement on those issues will be reached before the Holiday break.

- **Assessment Task Force Meets for Second Time.**—Today at 10:00 a.m. the Reassessment Task Force will meet pursuant to [House Resolutions 343](#) (J. White) and [344](#) (Neuman). The purpose of the Task Force is two-fold: (1) to develop a set of uniform standards for county assessment contracting, develop standards for disclosing the county's system of property valuation and assessment, a self-evaluation tool and a standard time frame; and (2) to develop criteria and procedures for data submission, verification and collection to address insufficient sample data and /or to assure and disclose sample data relied on to develop a county's performance measure.
- **Senate Education Committee Meeting Covers Multiple Issues.**—The Committee meets on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to consider the nomination of Feather O'Connor Houstoun by the Governor to serve on the Philadelphia School Reform Commission; to receive an update on PDE teacher evaluation with a presentation by PDE Secretary Ron Tomalis; and to have an informational briefing on [SB 1303](#) (A. Williams), which amends the School Code further providing for distress in school districts of the first class. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch Senate committee activity live.
- **Protecting Children in Route to School from Sex Offenders on Committee Agenda.**—The House Education Committee meets on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. to consider four bills. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch House committee activity live. The bills include:

[HB 1823](#) (Emrick)/[SB 743](#) (Rafferty), which amend the School Code to allow school districts to contract with private driving instructors to provide the classroom portion of driver education instruction without obtaining a Pennsylvania teacher certification;

[HB 1971](#) (Simmons), which amends the School Code providing for consideration of residence of registered sex offenders by PennDOT in evaluating hazards in walking to school, and allowing the state to reimburse school districts for the bussing of children, residing within a mile and one-half from school, who would otherwise encounter the residence of registered sex offenders when walking to school; and

[SB 328](#) (Dinniman), which amends the School Code to further provide for the restoration of operating privileges prior to the expiration of the statutory suspension period.

- **Committee to Discuss No School Before Labor Day.**—The The House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee will hold a Public Hearing on [HB 137](#) (Godshall) which amends the School Code prohibiting schools from starting before Labor Day.