



Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

Legislative Action Alert

Taking care of the business of schools...everyday

LEGISLATIVE REPORT MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011

- **Session Schedule.**—Both chambers of the General Assembly are in session three days this week. Only the House is in session next week, with the Senate in recess until December 5. Marcellus Shale legislation is expected to be the main focus of the week in both the House and Senate. [CLICK HERE](#) for session and committee schedule information.
- **Act Now on Separations Act Reform.**—The House Labor and Industry Committee meets today to consider [HB 283](#) (Keller, M), which would raise the threshold of the Separations Act from \$4,000 to \$25,000, and create an annual COLA adjustment. [CLICK HERE](#) to email your lawmakers in support of increasing the thresholds. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch House committee activity live.
- **Loss of Payment in Lieu of Taxes from Local Sources on Committee Agenda.**—The House Education Committee meets this week for two purposes. On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the committee will hold an informational meeting to discuss [HB 1050](#) (Harhai), legislation providing temporary special aid to school districts, particularly the Southmoreland School District in Westmoreland County, suffering loss of payment in lieu of taxes from local sources. Similar legislation passed the House last session by 148-40. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch House committee activity live.

On Wednesday, the committee will hold a voting meeting to consider:

[HB 1823](#) (Emrick): Allows a driver education instructor from a private driver training school to provide classroom instruction for driver education.

[HB 1971](#) (Simmons): Amends the School Code to ensure that the location of households and types of offenses committed by registered sex offenders are taken into account by the Department of Education when considering whether a walking route is hazardous.

[HB 1980](#) (Aument): Amends the School Code to implement a new teacher evaluation system.

[SB 328](#) (Dinniman): Amends the School Code to provide for the restoration of a driver's license of any child convicted compulsory attendance violations.

- **New Criminal History Provisions Up for Discussion.**—The Senate Education Committee meets today for the purposes of holding a public hearing on the Governor’s nominee, Pedro Ramos, to the Philadelphia School Reform Commission. Tomorrow, the committee will consider a package of mandate relief bills applicable to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., the committee will hold an informational hearing on Act 24 of 2011 relative to criminal history provisions. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch Senate committee activity live.
- **Finance Committees to Consider EIT Collection and Exemption.**—The House Finance Committee meets today at 11:00 a.m. to hold an informational meeting with the Department of Community and Economic Development on changes in local tax collection pursuant to Act 32 of 2008, which go into effect January 1, 2012. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch House committee activity live.

The earned income tax will also be on the Senate Finance Committee’s agenda. On Wednesday, the committee will consider [SB 382](#) (Baker, L), legislation which would amend the definition of “earned income” in the Local Tax Enabling Act to exempt wages paid to individuals on active duty military services, regardless of whether it is earned inside or outside the Commonwealth.

- **Residential Development Notification Bill Nears Senate Floor Vote.**—The Senate Local Government Committee meets on Wednesday to consider [HB 823](#) (Scavello), legislation requiring municipalities each month to notify in writing the superintendent of a school district in which a development plan received final approval by the municipality in the preceding month. The bill provides for what the notice shall include. The legislation passed the House on October 3rd by a vote of 197-2.
- **Legislators Retiring.**—The following lawmakers have announced they will not be seeking re-election in 2012: Representatives Curt Schroder (R-Chester), Ed Staback (D-Lackawana), John Evans (R-Erie), and Scott Boyd (R-Lancaster). Senator Jeff Piccola (R-Dauphin), chair of the Senate Education Committee, will also not seek re-election when his term expires next year.