

An Overview

# Navigating the Pennsylvania Legislative Process



Presented by

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Chester County Intermediate Unit



## The Governor's Office





The Governor's Office

The Senate





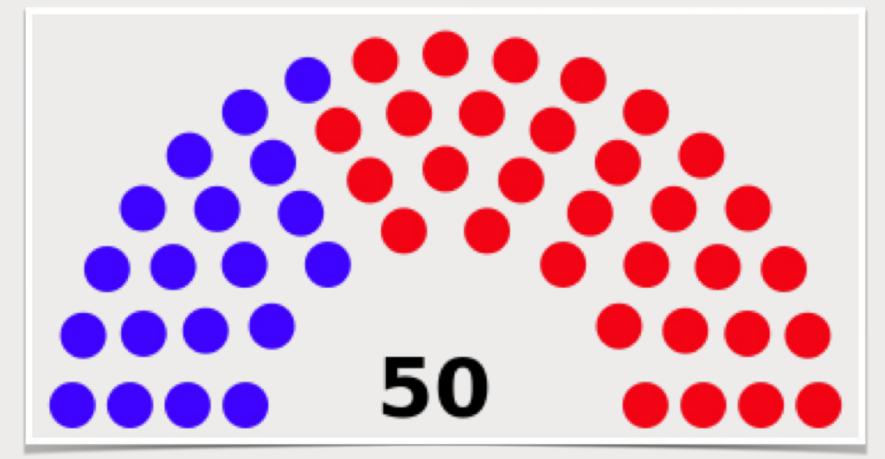
- The Governor's Office
- The Senate
- The House of Representatives





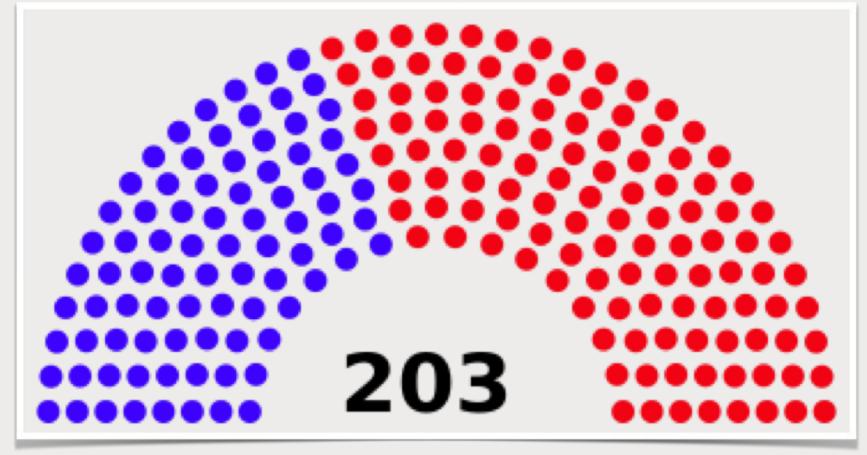
- The Governor's Office
- The Senate
- The House of Representatives
- Board of Education
- Department of Education





An Overview

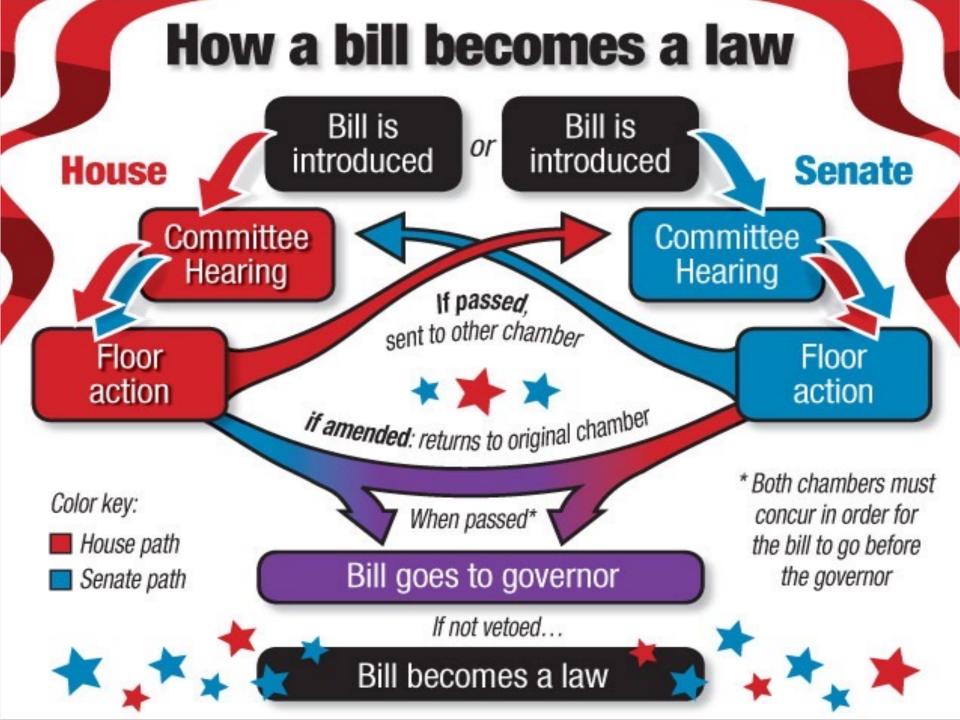
## The Pennsylvania 26 State Senate



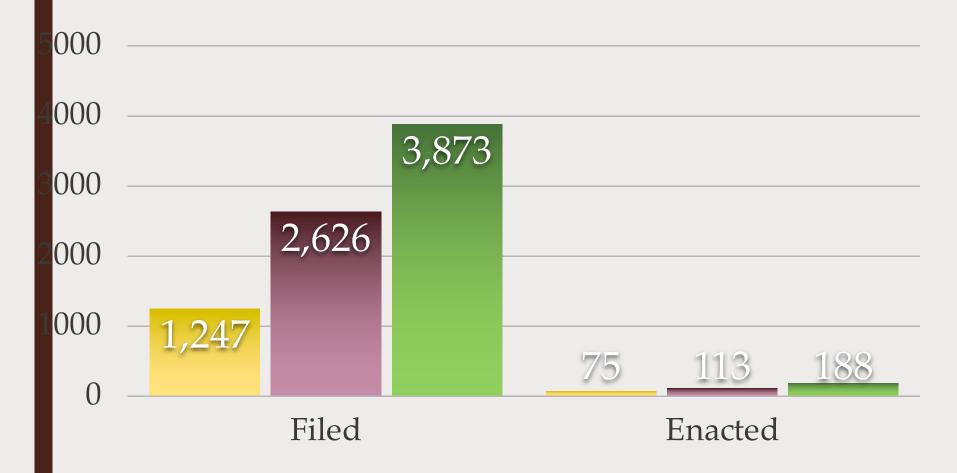
An Overview

Pennsylvania
House of
Representatives

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#### **Tracking Legislation**





#### CCSBLC Meeting Agenda

Agenda Wednesday, January 25, 6:30 p.m.

- 1. Welcome & Introductions Bill Wood, CCSBLC Chair
- 2. Overview of the Legislative Process Mary Jeanne Curley
- 3. Legislative Priority Survey Melissa Smith
- 4. Legislative Update Mary Jeanne Curley
- 5. Upcoming Meetings Bill Wood
- 6. Roundtable Discussion Bill Wood
- 7. Adjournment Mary Jeanne Curley







### LEGISLATIE UPDATE: PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION 2022 RESULTS

	Total Seats	Total Seats after Election
Governor (Dem.)	1	1
Lt. Governor (Dem.)	1	1
PA Senate		
Republican	28	27
Democrat	21	22
Independent	1	1
	50	50
PA House		
Republican	112	<mark>101?</mark>
Democrat	88	<mark>99?</mark>
Independent	0	1
Vacant	3	3
	203	203

## Senate Leadership

Senate Republican Leadership Team:	President Pro Tempore (Interim)— Sen. Kim Ward (Senate will vote Jan. 3 for two-year term)	
	Senate Majority Leader—Sen. Joe Pittman	
	Majority Whip—Sen. Ryan Aument	
	Senate Appropriations Committee—Sen. Scott Martin	
	Majority Caucus Chair—Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill	
	Senate Majority Caucus Secretary—Sen. Camera Bartolotta	
	Leader - Sen. Jay Costa, Jr.	
Senate	Leader - Sen. Jay Costa, Jr.	
Senate Democratic	Leader – Sen. Jay Costa, Jr.  Caucus Whip – Sen. Tina Tartaglione	
Democratic		
Democratic Caucus	Caucus Whip – Sen. Tina Tartaglione	
Democratic Caucus Leadership	Caucus Whip – Sen. Tina Tartaglione  Appropriations Committee Chair – Sen. Vincent Hughes	
Democratic Caucus	Caucus Whip – Sen. Tina Tartaglione  Appropriations Committee Chair – Sen. Vincent Hughes  Appropriations Vice Chair – Sen. Tim Kearney	
Democratic Caucus Leadership	Caucus Whip – Sen. Tina Tartaglione  Appropriations Committee Chair – Sen. Vincent Hughes  Appropriations Vice Chair – Sen. Tim Kearney  Caucus Chair – Sen. Wayne D. Fontana	

#### Senate Education Committee

David Argall, Majority Chair
Doug Mastriano, Vice Chair
Lyndsey Williams, Minority Chair
Ryan Aument (R)
Michele Brooks (R)
Jarrett Coleman (R)
John DiSanto (R)
Carolyn Committa (D)
Timothy Kearney (D)
Anthony Williams (D)
Kim Ward, ex-officio (R)

#### House Leadership

#### **Current Speaker of the House: Mark Rozzi**

#### House Republican Leadership:

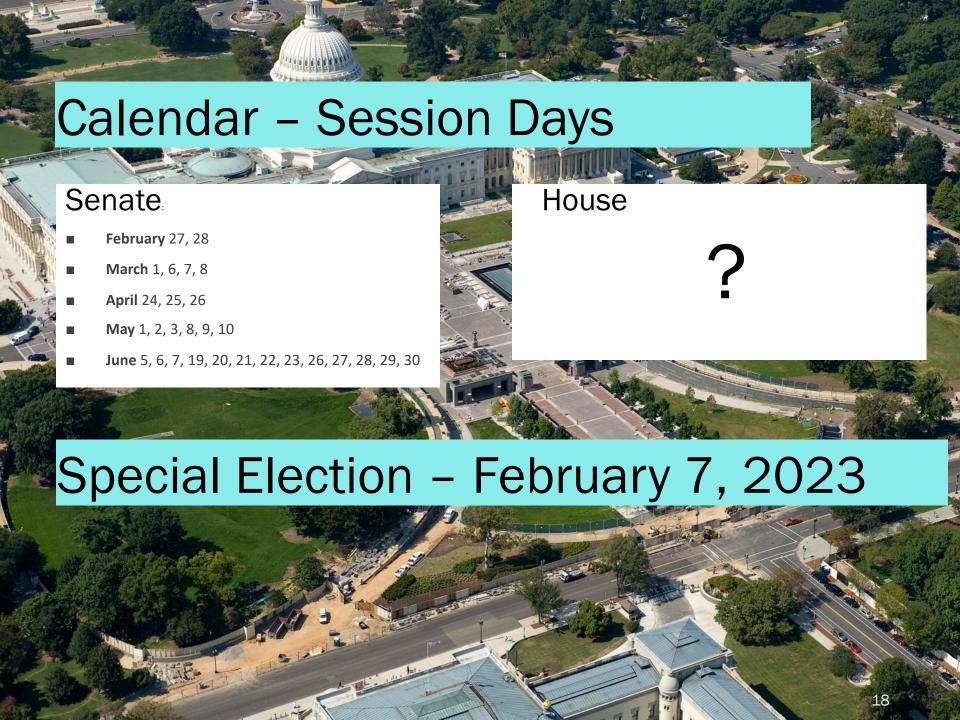
- Leader: Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster)
- Whip: Tim O'Neal (R-Washington)
- Appropriations Chair: Seth Grove (R-York)
- Caucus Chair: George Dunbar (R-Westmoreland)
- Caucus Secretary: Martina White (R-Philadelphia)
- Policy Chair: Josh Kail (R-Beaver)
- Caucus Administrator: Sheryl Delozier (R-Cumberland)

#### **House Democratic Leadership:**

- Leader: Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia)
- Appropriations Chairman: Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery)
- Whip: Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia)
- Caucus Chair: Dan Miller (D-Allegheny)
- Caucus Secretary: Tina Davis (D-Bucks)
- Policy Chair: Ryan Bizzarro (D-Erie)
- Caucus Administrator: Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh)



## HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE



#### Legislative Update - PA Senate

SB 84 (Sponsors: Phillips-Hill & Schwank) – This bill passed unanimously in the Senate on January 18. Protecting the First Amendment Right to Freedom of Religious Expression - Amends the Public School Code of 1949 to repeal the provision prohibiting public school teachers from wearing religious garb or insignia while in the performance of their duties Currently, Section 1112 prohibits a teacher from wearing any garb, mark, emblem or insignia that would indicate he or she is a member of or adherent to any religious order or sect while in the performance of their duties as a teacher. A teacher who violates this ban must be suspended from teaching for a term of one year, or permanently disqualified from teaching after multiple offenses. Furthermore, a public school director can be held criminally liable for failing to enforce this prohibition.

In the case Nichol v. Arin Intermediate Unit 28 in the United States District Court, W.D. Pennsylvania held that Arin Intermediate Unit 28's religious affiliations policy violates the Free Exercise of Religion and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The teacher was suspended pursuant to the Garb Statute and Arin's religious Affiliations policy from her job as an instructional assistant for refusing to comply with her supervisor's request that she remove or conceal a small cross she regularly wore on a necklace. As a result of the ruling, the plaintiff was rehired with back pay. Based on this decision, Section 1112 is no longer warranted.

SB 114 (Brooks) – This bill passed unanimously in the Senate on January 18. Firefighter Training Pilot Program for High School Students - Amends the Public School Code of 1949 to establish a pilot program to provide fire training to secondary school students through institutions of higher education. This bill would create a pilot program for community colleges and universities in the PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) to give interested high school students training in firefighting. This legislation passed the Senate unanimously in April 2021, but was not considered by the full House before the close of session.

As documented in the SR 6 report, Pennsylvania is facing a severe shortage of volunteer firefighters, with the current number of volunteers down to less than 15% of the number of volunteers in the 1970s. By encouraging school districts to partner with institutions of higher education, we can help recruit and retain firefighters at a time when first responders are desperately needed. This legislation would award three grants of \$150,000 each, which would be distributed to three community colleges or PASSHE schools in the Commonwealth, one in the eastern, central, and western parts of the state. The grants will be used to establish fire training programs for students in high school during the school year, with the hope they will remain firefighters for years to come.

#### **CCSBLC** Calendar

- 1. Wednesday, February 15 (In person) (Please note this is the third Wednesday)
- 2. Wednesday, March 22 (Virtual)
- 3. Thursday, April 20 \*8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. (Legislative Breakfast at the TCHS Brandywine Campus in Downingtown)
- 4. Wednesday, May 24 (Virtual)
- 5. Wednesday, June 28 (In Person)
- 6. July No meeting Legislature Not in Session.
- 7. August No meeting Legislature Not in Session.



