

November 2016 Bill Chart/Wrap Up
AFT Pennsylvania

Bill	Author	One-Liner	Description	Status as of 11/16/2016
HB 319	Knowles, Jerry	Amends the Unemployment Compensation Law, in administration of act, for records of & reports by employers; for determination of contribution rate; for interest; for limitations upon enforcement; for qualification; for decision; & amnesty.	Unemployment Comp fix. Supported by Labor.	Approved by the Governor (Act: 144)
HB 1618	Fee, Mindy	Amends the Administrative Code establishing the Office of State Inspector General.	Creates a new, independent agency: Office of the Inspector General. The head of the agency is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The agency is tasked with detecting and preventing fraud, waste, abuse at every level of government in PA.	Vetoed by the Governor (Veto: 3)
HB 1734	Wentling, Parke (F)	Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for continuing professional development, for program of continuing professional education and for charter schools.	Extends professional continuing education requirements for one year.	Approved by the Governor (Act: 118)
HB 1858	Kortz, Bill	Amends the Public School Code, in high schools, providing for graduation requirement.	The bill would add the following graduation requirement: "Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year and for each school year thereafter, in order to graduate from high school or obtain a general equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at least sixty per centum (60%) of the questions listed on a test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services."	Public hearing held in committee House Education, 9/26/16
HB 1887	Ortitay, Jason (F)	Amends Title 4 (Amusements) providing for fantasy contests; for legislative intent & defs.; for slot machine license; for testing & certification standards; for interactive gaming; for local share assessment; for penalties; & repeal.	In the Senate, the bill was amended to address local share allocations of casino revenue. In House Rules on a concurrence motion, the bill was further amended to allow internet gaming, fantasy sports gaming, and tablet gaming in international airports. The full House concurred with the gaming expansion language. The bill now awaits Senate concurrence.	House concurred in Senate amendments as amended by the House, 10/27/16; Referred to Senate Rules, 11/9/16

Bill	Author	One-Liner	Description	Status as of 11/16/2016
HB 1907	Benninghoff, Kerry	Amends Public School Code, in pupils & attendance, for defs., attendance policy at charter, regional charter & cyber charter schools, penalties, procedure when child habitually truant, citation & penalties & operation privilege.	Extensive re-write of truancy laws. Changes penalties for parents and students. Adds a section to the school code relating to charter and cyber charter schools, requiring those schools to have attendance policies in place.	Approved by the Governor (Act: 138)
HB 2078	Hill, Kristin (F)	Amends Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for issuing permanent college certificates, for program of continuing professional education and for professional educator discipline fee.	Makes several changes to certification. From House and Senate Fiscal Note: HB 2078 amends the Public School Code to require the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to process applications for permanent college certification from members of the United States Armed Forces, veterans, or their spouses within 14 days of the date the department received the complete application. In addition, PDE may only charge members of the United States Armed Forces, veterans, or their spouses \$35 to process these applications. This includes a \$10 certification fee and the \$25 professional educator discipline fee. Application fees vary, but are typically over \$100. This legislation would also permit a professional educator whose certification has been placed on voluntary inactive status but subsequently applies to PDE for removal of inactive certification to have the application granted immediately if the professional educator holds a valid professional certificate issued by another state, provides evidence of current compliance with the continuing education requirements of the other state, and was employed on the certificate in the other state within the two-year period prior to the application. Upon removal of active certification, requires the educator to retain the same number of hours of continuing professional education and the same amount of time to complete the 180-hour requirement as existed for the educator when inactive certification was granted. In the event that a certificate was placed on inactive status by PDE due to the expiration of the professional educator's compliance period, the professional educator shall begin a new five-year compliance period in order to complete the 180-hour requirement.	Approved by the Governor (Act: 143)

Bill	Author	One-Liner	Description	Status as of 11/16/2016
HB 2125	Saccone, Rick	Amends the Public School Code, in collective bargaining, further providing for definitions and providing for union leave.	HB 2125 seeks to prohibit school districts, with some exceptions, from granting any type of leave to employees for union duties. The bill defines this type of leave as "union leave:" any arrangement under which an employee takes leave from employment with an employer for the purpose of service with a Statewide employee organization or an employee organization.	Set on the House Tabled Calendar, 11/22/16
HB 2289	Everett, Garth	Act providing for accountability regarding collective bargaining agreements between governmental entities and employee organizations and for duties of the Office of Administration and the Office of the Budget.	HB 2289 allows the Legislature to prohibit the Governor from signing tentative collective bargaining agreements for the unions which bargain with the Commonwealth.	Set on the House Tabled Calendar, 11/22/16
HB 2337	Quigley, Thomas (F)	Amends the Higher Education Scholarship Law further providing for eligibility for scholarship.	The bill clarifies that PHEAA grants can be used for online courses of study for an institution headquartered and domiciled in the Commonwealth. The bill further adds the following requirements for PHEAA grant eligibility for institutions not headquartered and domiciled in the Commonwealth: (A) The student is enrolled at the institution's physical facility located in this Commonwealth. (B) The student's program of study is not structured to be more than fifty percent online. (C) The student's online enrollment in a given term does not exceed fifty percent of the student's total credits for that term, as defined by the agency. (D) The student meets all other eligibility requirements as defined by this act and as provided for by the agency.	Set on the House Tabled Calendar, 11/22/16

Bill	Author	One-Liner	Description	Status as of 11/16/2016
HB 2338	Gabler, Matt	Act providing for student protection during the transition of a postsecondary education institution to new accreditation.	From Senate Republican Committee Summary: Creates the Student Protection Act which provides that if the U.S. Department of Education discontinues its recognition of a national accrediting agency, the Commonwealth shall ensure certain protections for students attending an institution in Pennsylvania currently accredited by the national accrediting agency that loses Federal recognition. The student will remain eligible for PHEAA assistance and any other state agency through which such student may be eligible for assistance, provided that the student meets all other qualifications. The student will remain eligible for state licensure, certification or any other professional credential for which the student has trained, provided that the student meets all other qualifications and passes any required assessments or exams. Requires that postsecondary institutions accredited by a national accrediting agency that loses Federal recognition to be provided with a transition period of no less than 18 months to receive new accreditation by another accrediting agency recognized by the Federal Department of Education. The student protections provided will remain throughout this transition period. Permits the student protections to be continued beyond the 18 months if the postsecondary institution has not received new accreditation if PHEAA deems the extension of the protections to be in the best interest of the students attending the institution. Requires the institution, during the transition period to new accreditation, to disclose the status of the institution's application for new accreditation to any students who receive state aid from PHEAA. Requires PHEAA to publish guidelines on the internet for the implementation of this act. This act shall expire December 31, 2018.	Approved by the Governor (Act: 149)

Bill	Author	One-Liner	Description	Status as of 11/16/2016
HB 2381	Turzai, Mike	Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for Keystone Exams.	From Senate Committee Summary: The bill eliminates the requirement that the Commonwealth develop and implement Keystone Exams in English composition, algebra II, geometry, United State History, chemistry, civics and government, and world history by 2020-2021 subject to annual appropriation. The bill also provides that in any year when demonstration of proficiency on a Keystone Exam is required for graduation from high school, a CTE concentrator shall be deemed proficient, provided the student completes grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve proficiency and completes one of the following: (1) attains an industry-based competency certification related to their program of study; or, (2) demonstrates high likelihood of success on an industry-based competency assessment or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in their program of study. A "CTE concentrator" is a student who completes at least 50% of the minimum technical instructional hours required annually for vocational education students. The legislation is schedule to become effective immediately.	Passed the House, 10/19/16; Set on the Senate Calendar, 11/16/16
SB 562	Gordner, John	Amends the Regulatory Review Act further providing for defs.; for proposed regulations & procedures for review, for final-form regulations & final-omitted regulations & for review of disapproved final-form or omitted regulations.	Requires legislative oversight of proposed rules and regulations.	Vetoed by the Governor (Veto: 6)
SB 1071	Browne, Patrick	Amends Titles 24 (Education), 51 (Military Affairs) & 71 (State Government) revising pension provisions: for PSERS, in membership, contributions & benefits, of Defined Contribution Plan; for SERS, of Defined Contribution Plan.	Conference committee report approved on 10/25/2016 affects plan design for new employees. Employees are given three options, two hybrid plans and one straight DC plan. AFTPA is opposed. Neither the House nor the Senate voted on the conference committee report before session broke for the election.	Recommitted to Conference Committee in House, 10/27/16; Conference Committee Report Received in the Senate, 10/25/16

Bill	Author	One-Liner	Description	Status as of 11/16/2016
SB 1212	Wozniak, John	Amends Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for child opioid awareness education.	The bill requires school entities to develop an age-appropriate child opioid awareness and education program and incorporate the program into the school entity's existing curriculum for students in grades six through twelve. In developing the program, the school entity may use the model curriculum developed by the PDE. The requirements must be in place for the 2017-18 school year.	Passed the Senate, 9/28/16; Received in the House and referred to House Education, 10/3/16.
SB 1265	White, Donald	Amends an Act further providing for electronic funds transfers; providing for defs.; for consumer protections; payroll card accounts; and making editorial changes.	Authorizes employers to pay employee wages on debit cards. Establishes criteria for payment on wages through debit cards.	Approved by the Governor (Act: 161)
SB 1341	Mensch, Bob	Act providing for performance-based budgeting; establishing the Performance-based Budget Board and providing for its powers and duties; and conferring powers and imposing duties on the Independent Fiscal Office.	SB 1341 enacts a performance based budgeting program for state budget preparation. It requires the review of agencies to begin on January 1, 2017, and further requires the Budget Secretary to have the program in place for the 2018-19 fiscal year.	Passed the Senate, 9/28/16; Public hearing held in committee House Appropriations, 10/25/2016
SB 1356	Greenleaf, Stewart	Amends the Higher Education Scholarship Law further providing for eligibility for State scholarship.	The bill clarifies that PHEAA grants can be used for online courses of study for an institution headquartered and domiciled in the Commonwealth. The bill further adds the following requirements for PHEAA grant eligibility for institutions not headquartered and domiciled in the Commonwealth: (A) The student is enrolled at the institution's physical facility located in this Commonwealth. (B) The student's program of study is not structured to be more than fifty percent online. (C) The student's online enrollment in a given term does not exceed fifty percent of the student's total credits for that term, as defined by the agency. (D) The student meets all other eligibility requirements as defined by this act and as provided for by the agency.	Second Consideration in the Senate, 9/27/16; Rereferred to Senate Appropriations