



Association of
Independent Colleges & Universities
of Pennsylvania

Government Relations Weekly Report

Themes of the Week:

The Senate was back for a short three days in session this week leading up to the Governor's 2020-2021 Budget Address scheduled for next Tuesday.

State Happenings

Senate Labor and Industry Vote to Disapprove Overtime Regs.

As we reported earlier, in December the Administration postponed the IRRC vote on the Regs--after the Senate passed (on a bipartisan vote) a compromise negotiated with the administration ([SB 79](#)) that substituted a minimum wage increase (up to \$9.50) in place of the new proposed OT regs. Unfortunately, the House never took that compromise (SB 79) to a floor vote ([fallen through](#))—as it failed to get to a vote in Committee.

In light of that, the Senate L&I Committee met Tuesday, January 28th to consider the overtime regulation (set for an IRRC vote this Friday) apart from the Compromise in SB 79-- on its own; that Committee *disapproved* the regulation on a party line vote. The House L&I Committee had already voted its resolution of *disapproval*, also on party line vote. The “disapprovals” unfortunately will have no impact should IRRC (as expected) vote to approve the Overtime Regs at its meeting on January 31. If approved Friday, those OT regulations will take effect in January 2021, meaning schools would need to budget that expense for the second half of their next budget year.

There may be other opportunities leading up to the budget to effect a compromise.

Senate Agriculture Committee to Consider Fertilizer Bill

The Senate Agriculture Committee has scheduled a meeting on February 4 at 9:45 a.m. to consider [SB 915](#) (Yaw). This legislation sets standards for the application of fertilizer to turf, providing for labels and labeling and the disposition of funds. Additionally, it will also

require all professional fertilizer applicators to be certified in proper application techniques and best management practices.

“Licensed Bachelor Social Worker: Fees”

Final Reg Scheduled at IRRC

IRRC plans to meet and act on this regulation that updates fees and requirements at 10:00 am. on Thursday, February 20, 2020. Please note that any comments should be submitted to the Board prior to the 48 hour blackout-out period, which begins at 10:00 am on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. The agenda and any changes to the time or date of the meeting will be posted on IRRC’s website at www.irrc.state.pa.us. The Regulation can be downloaded [here](#).

For the full PA Senate committee schedule click [here](#)

Federal Happenings

IRS Guidance Released for Transportation Tax Reimbursement

This past week, the IRS issued guidance to help nonprofits recoup the money they paid in 2018 and 2019 on the recently repealed transportation benefit tax. The guidance instructs nonprofits to file amended Form 990-Ts and write “Amended Return – Section 512(a)(7) Repeal” at the top to insure that IRS officials will be aware of what it is. Read the [IRS guidance](#).

HEA Negotiations

Word on the street is that bi-partisan education staff from the House and Senate are back at the table trying to work out a compromise package. As things progress we will keep you updated.

Save the Date

AICUP will be on the Hill April 7, 2020 –

Hope you can join us to advocate for independent, nonprofit colleges across Pennsylvania! This year we expect over 45 schools and 300 students to attend!

We have extended the deadline for the speech contest to February 28, 2020.

Check out more details on our Speech Contest in partnership with PHEAA [here](#).

To register your group to attend, please click [here](#). We don't need to know the students coming yet, only that your school plans to join us.

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