



PARSS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As the remaining days of the fall 2021 session continue to dwindle, the **Senate Education Committee** had a busy schedule in Harrisburg last week. They held a meeting last week to consider two bills and then held a public hearing two days later. Last week, the Committee met to consider House Bill 1332 and House Bill 1660.

[House Bill 1332](#) (Rep. Lewis, R-Dauphin), which requires all curriculum, materials, assessment techniques, and a syllabus for each course and all changes or updates to curriculum to be available to the public via school websites. The legislation, covering all school entities, would be effective for the 2022-23 school year. Amendments (which included the requirement to post an internet link or title to every textbook used in each course) and final approval of the bill were all on party lines (7-4). You can read about both sides of the debate, including the Governor's position by [clicking here](#). The bill now moves to the full Senate for consideration. [House Bill 1660](#) (Rep. Sonney, R-Erie), which revises the timelines and procedures for emergency waivers. The bill was scheduled to be considered by the Senate Education Committee, but the bill was pulled off the agenda and will be considered in the future.

The Committee also held a public hearing on charter school regulations proposed by the PA Department of Education. You can read about the purpose and intent of the regulations by [clicking here](#). Not surprisingly charter operators were strongly opposed to proposed regulations. Senate Education Committee Chair Scott Martin (R-Lancaster) called the regs "an overreach." [Watch the hearing](#).

In other education-related news, the full Senate approved [Senate Bill 603](#) (Sen. Brooks, R-Mercer), which establishes a protocol for schools to follow when ticks need to be removed from a student. The bill creates an option for parents or the district to send the tick to the Tick Research Lab of PA. The prime sponsor, Senator Michelle Brooks (R-Crawford) says Pennsylvania leads the nation in Lyme disease. Her intent is that “parents will become more aware of the signs and symptoms of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and better educated about testing, diagnosis and treatment.” The bill was approved by the full Senate with a 48-1. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

Both the House and Senate are back in Harrisburg this week for three days of session. While there aren't any Education Committee meetings scheduled for either chamber right now, there are lots of conversations happening as negotiations on several items are occurring. We anticipate that there will be some movement of some education-related bills on the floor and potentially through Appropriations Committees, so stay tuned for what could be a busy last few weeks of session in 2021.