



## ***PARSS Legislative Update May 19, 2023***

### **No Statewide Surprises in Special Election Results**

The Municipal Election Year primary is usually a fairly low-key event and that is how the election results played out. The potential upheaval in the Democratic control of the state house failed to materialize as the Delaware County vacancy was retained in the special election of Heather Boyd. Republicans held onto the seat vacated by new Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver in the 108<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in Montour and Northumberland Counties in northcentral PA. Republican Michael Stender will take the seat. In both races, the party of the incumbent received more than 60% of the vote.

The Municipal Primary will influence the House in the future. Two current members of the House Democratic Caucus were victorious in their primary races Sara Innamorato (D-Allegheny) was the winner in the primary contest for Allegheny County Executive and will likely be successful in the fall. In addition, John Galloway (D-Bucks) won both nominations for magistrate assuring his election November. This means that another round of special elections will likely follow the General Election in November.

So, for the time being Democrats will hold onto their razor thin margin in the House. Lee's take a look at what has happened in Harrisburg during the spring as we head into the ramped-up tension of enacting a state budget in June.

In the House, nearly 2,000 bills have been introduced and 713 in the Senate but given the extraordinary delay (even by Harrisburg standards) in reorganizing the House, there has been limited floor activity to date. Only a single new law has been enacted in the first four months of the 2023 session compared to twenty last year and 13 the prior year. Of course, the Legislature now has politically divided chambers

will increase the complexity of the legislative process even with the reorganization drama notwithstanding.

***The Senate Education Committee has moved the following legislation that has been approved by the full Senate and sent to the House. All bills amend the Public School Code of 1949.***

[SB 114](#)—An Act establishing the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program and the Fire Training Fund. Prime Sponsor: Senator Brooks (R-Mercer).

[SB 84](#)-- An Act repealing provisions relating to prohibitions on religious garb and insignia in schools. Prime Sponsor: Senator Philipps-Hill (R-York).

[SB 232](#)—An Act providing for health services in schools related to Lyme disease treatment and prevention. Prime Sponsor: Senator Brooks (R-Mercer).

[SB 647](#)-- An Act creating Economic Education and Personal Financial Literacy Programs and providing for regulation of on-campus credit card marketing. Prime Sponsor: Senator Philipps-Hill (R-York).

***The House Education Committee has acted on the following bills that have been passed by the full House and sent to the Senate for consideration (all bills amend the Public School Code of 1949):***

[HB 301](#)—An Act providing for actual cost of tuition and maintenance of certain exceptional children in the four state-chartered schools for education of the deaf and the blind. Prime Sponsor: Representative Harkins (D-Erie).

[HB 148](#)— An Act providing for eating disorder awareness and education. Prime Sponsor: Representative Ortity (R-Allegheny).

[HB 141](#)—An Act establishing the Grow-Your-Own Educators Grant Program and grow-your-own educator career pathways, and imposing duties of the Department of Education. Prime Sponsor: Representative Schlossberg (D-Lehigh).

[HB 100](#)— An Act providing for student-lead tutoring programs. Prime Sponsor: Representative Freeman (D-Northampton).

[HB 688](#)— An Act establishing the PA Teacher Pipeline Scholarship Program; and imposing duties on the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and certain institutions of higher education. Prime Sponsor: Representative Rossi (D-Berks).