**Bills of Interest to Pennsylvanians with Disabilities 2019-2020**

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***Index of All Selected Bills by Topic***

**Topic Bill Number(s)**

**Abuse HB 399, HB 400, HB 503, HB 1895, HB 2203, HB 2650, SB 469\*,**

**Accommodations HB 117, HB 491, HB 840, SB 134, SB 914**

**Affordable Care Act HB 3\***

**Appropriation Act 2019 HB 790\*, SB 234**

**Appropriation Act 2020 HB 2387\*, SB 1350\***

**Appropriated Funds Reporting HB 2405**

**Caregivers HB 1309, HB 2679, HB 2684**

**Children’s Mental Health HB 2187**

**Coronavirus HB 2437, HB 2510\*, HB 2537, HB 2538, HB 2543, HB 2574, HB 2626, HB 2740, HB 2788, SB 10, SB 1314, SB 1108\*, SB 1314**

**Deafblind HB 2188**

**Department of Health and Human Services SB 970, SB 1126**

**Direct Care Workers HB 1215, HB 2640, HB 2798**

**Discrimination HB 2204**

**Early Intervention HB 1270**

**Education HB 113, HB 590, HB 845, HB 965,**

**HB 1210\*, HB 1615\*, HB 2083, HB 2084, HB 2560, HB 2785, HB 2788,**

**SB 571, SB 664, HR 10**

**Facilities HB 2437, HB 2481, HB 2510\*, HB 2574**

**Family and Medical Leave HB 1739, HB 2391, SB 580**

**General Assistance HB 33\*, HB 1709, SB 799**

**Guardianship SB 924**

**Health HB 335, HB 469, HB 471, SB 268**

**Home and Community-Based Services HB 1215, HB 1508, HB1918, HB 2740, HB 2767, SB 12, SB 1314**

**Housing SB 30, SB 31, SB 755**

**ID Cards HB 294**

**Independent Living Council/Centers HB 2139, HB 2236**

**Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities HB 503, HB 1363, HB 1827, HB1918, HB 2798, SB 469\***

**Medicaid HB 2350, HB 2351, HB 2352, HB 2353,**

 **HB 2354, HB 2355, HB 2359, SB 959**

**Medical Assistance SB 322**

**Medical Assistance for Workers (MAWD) HB 2202, SB 890**

**Mental Health HB 672\*, HB 836, HB 1349, HB 1438, HB 1439, HB1440, HB1696, HB 1895,**

 **HB 2331**

**Minimum Wage HB 1215, SB 12**

**Mobility Devices HB 271**

**Office for People with Disabilities SB 852**

**Parking Placards HB 2189, SB 837**

**Personal Care Homes HB 606, HB 1606**

**Prescription Drugs HB 125**

**Presumptive Eligibility HB 51, SB 277**

**Protective Services SB 819**

**Service Animal SB 603**

**School Student Mental Health Assistance HB 2194**

**State Center Closure Moratorium HB1918, SB 906\*\***

**Suicide HB 1827**

**Telemedicine SB 857\*\***

**Transportation HB 986, HB 2008, HB 2075, HB 2120, SB 390**

**Ventilator Care HB 2359, SB 959**

**Voting HB1328, HB1328, HB 2626, SB 10, SB 375, SB 411, SB 421\*, SB 422,**

 **SB 818**

**NOTES:**

**\* - Signed into Law**

**\*\* - Vetoed**

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**Topic Bill Number Act Number Date Enacted**

**Abuse SB 469 Act 30 of 2019** June 28, 2019

**Affordable Care Act HB 3 Act 42 of 2019** July 2, 2019

**Appropriation Act 2019 HB 790 Act 1A of 2019** June 28, 2019

**Appropriation Act 2020** **HB 2387 Act 1A of 2020** May 29, 2020

 **SB 1350 Act 17A of 2020 Nov. 23, 2020**

**Coronavirus SB 1108 Act 2A of 2020** May 29, 2020

 **HB 2510 Act 24 of 2020 May 29, 2020**

**Education HB 1210 Act 30 of 2020** June 5, 2020

 **HB 1615 Act 16 of 2019** June 28, 2019

**Facilities HB 2510 Act 24 of 2020** May 29, 2020

**Intellectual and SB 469 Act 30** **of 2019** June 28, 2019

 **Developmental**

 **Disabilities**

**General Assistance HB 33 Act 12 of 2019** June 28, 2019

**Mental Health HB 672 Act 65 of 2020** July 23, 2020

**Voting** **SB 421** **Act 77 of 2019** Oct. 31, 2019

 **SB 422 Act 12 of 2020** March 27, 2020

***Index of Selected Bills of Interest to Pennsylvanians with Disabilities Vetoed 2019-2020***

**Topic Bill Number Act Number Date Vetoed**

**State Center Closure SB 906 Veto 1 of 2020** Feb. 12, 2020

 **Moratorium**

**Telemedicine SB 857 Veto 4 of 2020** April 29, 2020

***Selected Resolutions Adopted 2019-2020***

**Topic Res. Number Date Adopted**

**Americans with Disabilities**

 **Act** **HR 543**  Feb. 4, 2020

**Brain Injury Awareness Month HR 718** May 20, 2020

**Disabilities Awareness Month** **HR 143** March 20, 2019

 **SR 302** Feb. 5, 2020

**Essential Work** **Performed HR 1010** Sept. 30, 2020

 **SR 396** Nov. 19, 2020

**Family Caregiver Month HR 1043** Nov. 18, 2020

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum HR 950** Sept. 29, 2020

 **Disorders Awareness Month**

**Intellectual Disability Awareness** **HR 789** July 8, 2020

**Lifesharing Awareness Month HR 935** Oct. 21, 2020

***Summary of Bills of Interest to the Disability Community 2019-2020***

Below we summarize some bills of interest to the disability community from the 2019-2020 session.  For more information about these or any other state bills, go to: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/bills/>. The site contains lots of useful information.

**HB 3.** Introduced by Representative Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) and Representative Frank Dermody (D-Allegheny). This bill would create an authority to operate a **state-based health insurance exchange for Affordable Care Act** individual market plans. Referred to Insurance, June 4, 2019. Approved by the Governor, July 2, 2019, becoming **Act No. 42 of 2019.**

**Impact:** Would create an authority to operate a state-based health insurance exchange for Affordable Care Act individual market plans. The legislation will also permit the Commonwealth to apply for a Section 1332 State Relief and Empowerment waiver to create a reinsurance program to drive down premium increases in the individual market.

**HB 33.** Introduced by Representative George Dunbar (R-Westmoreland). This bill would eliminate the **general assistance** **cash benefit** program and amend the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, further providing for definitions, for general assistance-related categorically needy and medically needy only medical assistance programs. Referred to Health, Jan. 28, 2019. Third consideration and final passage, June 19, 2019 (106-95). Referred to Senate Health and Human Services, June 21, 2019. Third consideration and final passage, June 26, 2019 (26-24). Signed in House and Senate, June 26, 2019. Signed by the Governor, June 28, 2019, becoming **Act 12 of 2019.**

**Impact:** Would terminate the general assistance cash benefit program which is a state-only funded program paid where a cash benefit to individuals who did not qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) was paid.

**HB 51.** Introduced by Representative Aaron Bernstine (R-Beaver). This bill would provide greater access for seniors to in-home care by extending **“presumptive eligibility”** to those who meet the qualifications for Medicaid and who wish to remain in their own homes instead of in a more costly and restrictive setting. The qualifications for care still remain in place and eligibility criteria will not be altered or lowered. Instead, the bill will assist in expediting and equalizing the approval process for those who wish to receive care at home, as the process now does for nursing home care. It was introduced and referred to Health, Jan. 28, 2019. Re-committed to Appropriations, Feb. 20, 2019. See also, **SB 277** introduced by Senator Michele Brooks (R-Crawford).

**Impact:** Would extend the "presumptive eligibility" to those who meet the qualifications for Medicaid and who wish to remain in their homes instead of in a more costly and restrictive setting.

**HB 113.** Introduced by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-Allegheny). This bill would seek to improve the transition to post-secondary schools for **students with disabilities** by incorporating parts of Senator Bob Casey’s federal RISE (Respond, Innovate, Succeed and Empower) Act. Referred to Education, Jan. 28, 2019.

**Impact:** Would facilitate in the transition of students with disabilities to post-secondary schools and encourage their educational advancement.

**HB 117.** Introduced by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-Allegheny). This bill would require state-owned buildings and certain places of public accommodation, including auditoriums, convention centers, sports arenas, and amusement parks with a maximum occupancy of 2,000 or more people, to install and maintain at least one **adult changing station.** Referred to Labor and Industry Committee, Jan. 28, 2019. See also **SB 914**.

**Impact:** Would allow for greater accessibility for individuals with disabilities and their families in community living and activities out in the community.

**HB 125.** Introduced by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-Allegheny). This bill would seek to require pharmacies to make **accessible prescription drug container labels** available to individuals who are deafblind and visually-impaired when requested. These labels will be available, at no cost to the consumer, in audio, braille, and large font formats. This measure is modeled off of the best practices released by the United States Access Board in 2013, and will enable individuals with a visual impairment to manage their medications securely, independently, and privately. Referred to Health, Jan. 28, 2019.

**Impact:** Would require pharmacies to make accessible prescription drug container labels available to individuals who are deafblind and visually-impaired when requested.

**HB 271.** Introduced by Representative Michael J. Driscoll (D-Philadelphia). This bill would require **wheelchairs and other electrical mobility devices** to have red reflectors in order to make them more visible to drivers. Referred to Transportation, Jan. 29, 2019.

**Impact:** Would promote the safety of individuals in wheelchairs and other electrical mobility devices from drivers due to poor visibility.

**HB 294.** Introduced by Representative Austin A. Davis (D-Allegheny). This bill would reduce **ID card** fees for senior citizens, as well as low-income, homeless, veterans, and individuals with a disability. Referred to Transportation, Jan. 30, 2019.

**Impact**: Allow individuals on low income to be able to afford the purchase of an ID card.

**HB 335.** Introduced by Representative Seth M. Grove (R-York). This bill would integrate behavioral health and physical health services in Pennsylvania’s Medicaid program, **HealthChoices**. Referred to Health and Human Services, Feb. 1, 2019.

**Impact**: Would coordinate mental health, substance abuse and primary care services in an effort to produce the best outcomes and to best care for people with complex health needs. Also, it allows for the integration of a single treatment plan (i.e. confidentiality barriers), easier data collection and monitoring of outcomes tying together the entire cost of care.

**HB 399.** Introduced by Representative Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-Northumberland). This bill would amend Title 18 and allow for concurrent jurisdiction for the Attorney General during financial exploitation investigations of **care dependent individuals**. Referred to Aging and Older Adult Services, May 2, 2019.

**Impact:** Seeks to protect care dependent individuals from those who would financially exploit them and provides for level of investigation.

**HB 400.** Introduced by Representative Kate A. Klunk (R-York). This bill would further provide for the offense of abuse of **care-dependent person**. Referred to Aging and Older Adult Services, May 2, 2019. Re-committed to Appropriations, June 9, 2020. Third consideration and final passage, June 10, 2020. Referred to Senate Judiciary, June 17, 2020.

**Impact:** Expands the definitions of what is an offense of abuse of care-dependent person if a caretaker uses an audio, video or still image of the care-dependent person to ridicule or demean the individual. This action would be a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**HB 469.** Introduced by Representative Anthony M. DeLuca **(D-Allegheny).** This bill would provide for ten **essential health benefits** including: ambulatory patient services; emergency services; hospitalization; maternity and newborn care; mental health and substance abuse disorder services; including behavioral health treatment; prescription drugs; rehabilitation and habilitation services and devices and chronic disease management; and pediatric services, including oral and vision care. Referred to Insurance, Feb. 11, 2019, Re-referred to Health, April 27, 2020.

**Impact:** Would put current federal essential health benefits under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into state law to ensure individuals will not be denied coverage for the healthcare they need should there be any change on the federal level to the ACA.

**HB 471.** Introduced by Representative Peter Schweyer (D-Lehigh). This bill would prohibit health insurers from using an individual’s **pre-existing medical condition** to deny or exclude coverage under a health insurance policy. Referred to Insurance, Feb. 11, 2019. Re-referred to Health, April 27, 2020.

**Impact:** Would protect individuals with pre-existing conditions from being discriminated against or denied coverage by health insurers should the Affordable Care Act (ACA) be overturned or repealed on the Federal level.

**HB 491.** Introduced by Representative Karen Boback (R-Columbia). This bill would amend the Unemployment Compensation (UC) Law to allow for **reasonable accommodations** to be made for individuals with a disability who are required to take the reemployment class. Referred to Labor and Industry, Feb. 12, 2019.

**Impact**: Would facilitate the ability for individuals with disabilities to benefit from the reemployment services in the UC program.

**HB 503.** Introduced by Representative Garth D. Everett (R-Lycoming).This bill would protect **victims and witnesses with intellectual disabilities or autism**. Referred to House Judiciary, Feb. 12, 2019. Third consideration and final passage, April 9, 2019. Referred to Senate Judiciary, April 22, 2019. See also, **SB 469,** now **Act 30 of 2019.**

**Impact:** Would allow for individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism to qualify for the tender years exception when testifying against an abuser. This legislation protects individuals when testifying by allowing for alternate forms of testimony to be accepted.

**HB 590.** Introduced by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-Allegheny). This bill would amend the Public School Code to add curriculum requirements for Health classes across Pennsylvania to **educate students** in an age- appropriate manner about mental health, physical disabilities, and developmental disabilities. Referred to Education, Feb. 28, 2019.

**Impact**: Would require the Department of Education to create curriculum for Health classes that will provide a framework for positive discussion and increased understanding of students with disabilities.

**HB 606.** Introduced by Representative Anthony M. DeLuca (D-Allegheny). This bill would provide for departmental powers and duties as to small **personal care homes**. Referred to Health, Feb. 28, 2019.

**Impact**: Would create the entity of small personal care homes to include those with one to three residents. It would extend two provisions of current regulations to small personal care homes and all small personal care homes will be registered.

**HB 672.** Introduced by Representative Jason Ortitay (R-Allegheny). This bill would amend the act of February 13, 1970 (P.L.19, No.10), entitled “An act enabling certain minors to consent to medical, dental and health services, declaring consent unnecessary under certain circumstances,” further providing for **mental health treatment** and for release of medical records. Referred to Human Services, March 1, 2019. Approved by the Governor, July 23, 2020 becoming **Act 65 of 2020.**

**Impact:** Revises consent to voluntary inpatient or outpatient mental health services/treatment for minors from 14 to 18 years of age to allow for greater clarity on the rights of parents or legal guardians.

**HB 790.** Introduced by Representative Stanley Saylor (R-York). The **General Appropriation Act of 2019** for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. Re-referred to House Appropriations May 1, 2019. Third consideration and final passage, June 25, 2019 (140-62). Referred to Senate Appropriations June 25, 2019. Third consideration and final passage June 27, 2019 (42-8).  Signed in the House and Senate June 27, 2019. Signed by the Governor June 28, 2019, becoming **Act 1A of 2019**.

**Impact:** Appropriates funds to cover costs and expenses of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the FY 2019-2020.

**HB 836.** Introduced by Representative Thomas P. Murt (R-Montgomery). This bill would seek to protect the rights of Pennsylvanians to access **mental health and substance use** services through their insurance company. It was introduced and referred to the Insurance Committee, March 14, 2019.

**Impact**: Would facilitate access to behavioral health treatment by requiring insurers to make their behavioral health benefit no more restrictive than their physical health benefit.

**HB 840.** Introduced by Representative Thomas P. Murt (R-Montgomery). This bill would amend the Human Relations Act and provide for the right to freedom from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, and in public transportation for those who use **therapy dogs**. Referred to the State Government Committee, March 14, 2019.

**Impact**: Would prohibit the use of discrimination against those who use therapy dogs in employment, housing, public accommodation, or public transportation.

**HB 845.** Introduced by Representative Thomas P. Murt (R-Montgomery). This bill would place the **burden of proof** on school districts, rather than a party seeking relief, in **special education hearings.**It was introduced and referred to the House Education Committee, March 14, 2019. **See SB 664**.

**Impact**: Would assist parents and families in fighting for the rights of their students with disabilities by requiring the burden of proof in special education hearings be on the school district.

**HB 965.** Introduced by Representative Tim Briggs (D-Montgomery). This bill would require the addition of **mental health education** into existing health and wellness curricula for all primary and secondary schools under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. Referred to Education, March 25, 2019.

**Impact:** Would assist in the education and knowledge on mental health among students in the Commonwealth so that they can recognize signs among themselves or their fellow classmates.

**HB 986.** Introduced by Representative Aaron Bernstine (R-Beaver). This bill would delay the implementation of utilizing a statewide or regional broker for the **Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)** until DHS conducts a thorough review. Referred to Health, April 2, 2019.

**Impact:** Allows the Department of Human Services time to do a through review of the system and evaluate the proposed benefits or issues of adopting a statewide or regional broker for MATP.

**HB 1210.** Introduced by Representative Mike Jones (R-York). This bill would amend the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, further providing for **Special Education** Funding Commission and for Basic Education Funding Commission. Referred to Education, April 15, 2019. Third consideration and final passage, May 1, 2019. Referred to Senate Education, May 3, 2019. House concurred in Senate amendments, May 28, 2020 (199-3). Approved by the Governor, June 5, 2020, becoming **Act 30 of 2020.**

**Impact:** Moves the deadline for the Special Education Funding Commission to release their report on the Special Education Funding Formula to September 30, 2020. The original due date was November 30, 2019. This report will be used to decide on how the Special Education Funding Formula will be altered or changed in the future.

**HB 1215.** Introduced by Representative Patty Kim (D-Dauphin). This bill would increase **minimum wage** and mandates that savings be used to increase childcare and **home and community-based services** to ensure that these providers are able to pay the increased minimum wage. Referred to Labor and Industry, March 25, 2019. See also, **SB 12** introduced by Senator Christine M. Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia).

**Impact:** Would increase the minimum wage to $12/hour and then it will continue to increase each year until it reaches $15 per hour and then will be tied to the consumer price index.

**HB 1235**. Introduced by Representative Brandon Markosek (D-Allegheny). This bill would provide special **absentee ballots printed in Braille** to qualified voters who submit a written request for a special ballot. Referred to State Government, April 17, 2019.

**Impact**: Enables individuals with visual impairments to fully participate in the electoral process by having an accessible ballot they themselves can complete.

**HB 1270.** Introduced by Representative Tarah Toohil (R-Luzerne). This bill will include children born to mothers with postpartum depression eligible to be assessed and tracked for potential need for **Early Intervention Services**. Referred to Children and Youth, April 17, 2019. Recommitted to Appropriations on June 23, 2020.

**Impact:** Expands the eligibility of children to be tracked and assessed for future need of early intervention services.

**HB 1309.** Introduced by Representative Thomas P. Murt (R-Montgomery). This bill would direct the Department of Human Services to establish a **Family Caregiver Support Advisory Board**. The Family Caregiver Advisory Support Board will work closely with the Department to address the needs of caregivers and to assure appropriate services are available. Referred to Human Services, April 25, 2019.

**Impact:** Implements a Family Caregiver Support Advisory Board to assess the needs of family caregivers.

**HB1328.** Introduced by Liz Hanbidge (D-Montgomery). This bill would allow an election official to bring a paper ballot – or portable **voting** machine when available – to any voter outside the physical polling place who has a physical, emotional, intellectual, developmental disability or short-term inability that would preclude them from easily accessing voting machines. Referred to State Government, April 25, 2019.

**Impact:** Would expand accessibility in voting for those who have disabilities by bring the polling place outside the physical polling site.

**HB 1349.** Introduced by Representative Martina White (R-Philadelphia). This bill would provide for evaluation of the person’s needs for either **mental health or addiction treatment** due to a drug overdose. Referred to Judiciary, May 1, 2019. Re-referred to Human Services, June 11, 2019.

**Impact:** Would amend the Mental Health Procedures Act to establish that a drug overdose represents a clear and present danger for the purposes of the act and that an individual needs an evaluation to ensure their protection.

**HB 1363.** Introduced by Representative Thomas P. Murt (R-Montgomery). This bill would establish a **bill of rights** for individuals with **intellectual and developmental disabilities**.It was introduced and referred to the Human Services Committee, May 6, 2019. Third consideration and final passage, June 9, 2020 (202-0). Referred to Senate Health & Human Services, June 14, 2020.

**Impact:** Establishes a bill of rights for individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism by affirming that individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism have an intrinsic right to live, participate, and thrive in their home and communities. It also requires the Department of Human Services to implement a plan to end the Waiting List in 5 years.

**HB 1438, HB 1439, HB1440.** Introduced by Representative Aaron D. Kaufer (R-Luzerne). These bills would amend Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, providing for **mental health parity and addiction treatment.** Referred to Insurance, May 8, 2019.

**Impact**: Would assure that purchasers of insurance are able to access coverage for addiction treatment already included in the health plan.

**HB 1439.** Introduced by Representative Aaron D. Kaufer (R-Luzerne). This bill would amend Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, providing for **mental health parity and addiction treatment.** Referred to Insurance, May 8, 2019. Third consideration and final passage, May 4, 2020. Referred to Senate Banking and Insurance, May 7, 2020. Re-reported as committed, Sept. 8, 2020.

**Impact:** Brings state law into compliance with the Federal Mental Health Parity & Addiction Equity Act of 2008, which requires health insurance policies that include treatment for alcohol and drug addiction and/or treatment for mental illnesses provide coverage in parity with other illnesses. This will ensure purchasers of insurance are able to access coverage for addiction treatment.

**HB 1508.** Introduced by Representative Liz Hanbidge (D-Montgomery). This bill would require that individuals receive their benefits no later than 90 days after being deemed eligible for the **HCBS waiver** program. Referred to Health, May 23, 2019.

**Impact:** Would work to end the waiting list by requiring individuals with disabilities receive their benefits under HCBS waiver within 90 days.

**HB 1606.** Introduced by Representative Benjamin V. Sanchez (D-Montgomery). This bill would increase the **personal needs allowance** deduction for Medical Assistance-eligible individuals living in nursing facilities. Referred to Aging and Older Adult Services, June 11, 2019.

**Impact**: Allows for the personal needs allowance deduction to be increased from the current deduction of $45 per month to $65 per month. The personal needs allowance allows residents of nursing facilities to purchase clothing and meet other personal expenses that are not covered by Medical Assistance

**HB 1615.** Introduced by Representative Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny). This bill would provide for **Special Education Funding Commission**. Referred to Rules, June 11, 2019. Re-committed to Appropriations, June 17, 2019. Third consideration and final passage, June 18, 2019 (132-67). In the Senate, referred to Education, June 18, 2019. Re-referred to Appropriations, June 26, 2019. Third consideration and final passage June 27, 2019. Signed in the House and Senate June 28, 2019. Signed by the Governor, June 28, 2019, becoming **Act 16 of 2019**.

**Impact:** Establishes when the Special Education Funding Commission must convene and provide their report to the General Assembly on amending the Special Education Funding Commission.

**HB1696.** Introduced by Representative Thomas P. Murt (R-Montgomery). This bill would amend Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, providing for **mental health parity and addiction treatment.** Referred to Insurance, July 8, 2019. Re-committed to Appropriations, April 29, 2020.

**Impact:** Requires Insurance Carriers who cover behavioral health to submit data to the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance to ensure compliance with the Federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

**HB 1709.** Introduced by Representative Malcolm Kenyatta (D-Philadelphia). This bill would provide emergency relief to those who previously received support through **General Assistance**. Referred to Health, July 16, 2019. See also, **SB 799** introduced by Senator Katie J. Muth (D-Berks).

**Impact:** Would provide assistance to the most vulnerable by giving emergency relief to those who were legible for the program before it was terminated.

**HB 1739**. Introduced by Representative Wendi Thomas (R-Bucks). This bill would establish “The Family Care Act,” to establish a statewide **Family and Medical Leave** Insurance Program. Referred to Labor and Industry, Aug. 16, 2019. See also, **SB 580**
introduced by Senator Daniel Laughlin (R-Erie).

**Impact:** Would facilitate families in being able to access family and medical leave as all working individuals would make a small payroll contribution to support the program, which would be administered by the Department of Labor and Industry.

**HB 1827.** Introduced by Representative Dawn W. Keefer (R-York). This bill would be referred to as “Shawn’s Law.” It would amend the provision in the Crimes Code entitled Causing or Aiding Suicide and would provide for a sentence enhancement where the person who commits suicide is under 18 years of age or has an **intellectual disability**. Referred to Judiciary, Sept. 18, 2019. Third consideration and final passage, May 20, 2020. Referred to Senate Judiciary, May 25, 2020.

**Impact:** Allows for a greater criminal sentence to an individual who is convicted of assisting or aiding an individual who is under 18 years old or has an intellectual disability or autism in committing suicide.

**HB 1895.** Introduced by Representative David H. Rowe (R-Union). This bill would amend the Mental Health Procedures Act to protect the rights of Pennsylvanians receiving **mental health care**. This Bill will state that persons in treatment have a right to be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Referred to Human Services, Sept. 30, 2019. Reported as committed, Jan. 21, 2020. Re-committed to Appropriations, Feb. 4, 2020. Third consideration and final passage, April 20, 2020. Referred to Senate Health and Human Services, April 28, 2020.

**Impact:** Grants individuals in treatment the right to be free from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. It also includes the right to challenge the legality of detention or degree of restraint that is used in order to be afforded the rights listed above.

**HB1918.** Introduced by Representative Gerald J. Mullery (D-Luzerne). This bill would provide for White Haven and Polk **State center closure moratorium**. Referred to Health, Oct. 15, 2019. Laid on the tabled calendar since, Oct. 22, 2019. Laid on the table, Jan. 13, 2020. See also **SB 906.**

**Impact:** Would prohibit the closure of any state institution until the Waiting List for Home and Community Based Services is empty.

**HB 2008.** Introduced by Representative Frank Burns (D-Cambria). This bill would repeal the requirement that **Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)** rides be provided by a contracted broker. Referred to Health, Oct. 30, 2019.

**Impact:** Would halt the Department of Human Services from moving to a statewide or regional broker system for MATP.

**HB 2075.** Introduced by Representative Tim Hennessey (R-Chester). This bill would analyze the requirement that **Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)** rides be provided by a contracted broker. Referred to Health, Nov. 20, 2019.

**Impact:** Would require the Department of Human Services to create a commission to analyze Federal and State regulations or policies controlling nonemergency medical transportation.

**HB 2083.** Introduced by Representative Joseph C. Hohenstein (D-Philadelphia). This bill would provide for **rights of deaf students**, for duties of school entities and for duties of Department of Education. Referred to Education, Nov. 22, 2019.

**Impact:** Would require schools provide deaf students with key supports to guarantee they have access to high-quality education, which is given to their non deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind peers. It provides opportunities for parent or legal guardians of the student to fully participate in the development of their educational plans.

**HB 2084.** Introduced by Representative Joseph C. Hohenstein (D-Philadelphia). This bill would provide for **Deaf Education Commission.** Referred to Education, Nov. 22, 2019.

**Impact:** Would establish a Commission on Deaf Education, which will be tasked with producing a parent resource guide, identify potential improvement to early intervention programs for deaf children, and develop methods to collect data on the progress of deaf and hard of hearing children from birth to age five.

**HB 2120.** Introduced by Representative Tim Hennessey (R-Chester). This bill would provide for **nonemergency medical transportation** services. Referred to Transportation, Dec. 12, 2019. Laid on the table, March 25, 2020 [House].

**Impact:** Would provide nonemergency medical transportation services to eligible and enrolled medical assistance recipients who use a Statewide or regional transportation system. It would also require the Department to produce analysis on the effectiveness and efficiency of the state’s current use of nonemergency transportation services as well as the impact of the current model on consumers.

**HB 2139.** Introduced by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-Allegheny). This bill would update guidance on **Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council** (PA SILC) board composition, the role of the Designated State Entity with PA SILC and CILs, addition of the 5th core services for CILS of transition (youth, institutional settings), federally funded CILs already are required to do this service, and provide a new base level for funding of $350,000. Referred to Human Services, Dec. 17, 2019.

**Impact:** Would amend Act 139 of 1994 to bring the state into step with the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and raise funding to reflect that Pennsylvania’s disability population has doubled since the original legislation passed.

**HB 2187.** Introduced by Representative John T. Galloway (D-Bucks). This bill would provide for Statewide **children’s mental health ombudsman**. Referred to Human Services, Jan. 10, 2020. First consideration, May 19, 2020. Removed from table, May 27, 2020.

**Impact:** This legislation would designate an official be tasked with the following responsibilities: will have the authority to advocate on behalf of children with mental disorders; identify barriers to effective mental health treatment; monitor compliance with laws pertaining to children’s behavioral health services; and investigate and attempt to resolve complaints regarding violations by an entity regulated by the State which have an adverse effect upon children.

**HB 2188.** Introduced by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-Allegheny). This bill would provide for **deaf and blind** Pennsylvanians by providing access to support service providers who facilitate communication and provide sighted guidance. Referred to Labor and Industry, Jan. 10, 2020.

**Impact:** This legislation would permanently establish a grant program to support services providers who provide trainings and services to individuals who are deafblind.

**HB 2189.** Introduced by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-Allegheny). This bill would replace the word “handicapped” with “accessible” for **parking placards**. Referred to Transportation, Jan. 10, 2020. See also **SB 837.**

**Impact:** This legislation would replace the word “handicapped” with “accessible” on parking placards to steer away from any negative stigmatization. It would also remove the word “handicapped” and replace it with “accessible” throughout Title 75.

**HB 2194.** Introduced by Representative John T. Galloway (D-Bucks). This bill would establish the **School Student Mental Health Assistance** Augmentation Account and provide grants to support school-linked mental health services. Referred to Education, Jan. 10, 2020.

**Impact:** This legislation would provide for grants to be established to support school-aligned mental health services. These grants can be used by school entities to identify and diagnose mental health conditions among students, fund transportation for children receiving school-linked mental health services when school is out of session, and cover costs associated with delivering telemedicine to school children.

**HB 2202.** Introduced by Representative Kate A. Klunk (R-York). This bill would allow individuals to earn more money under a new category under **Medical Assistance for Workers (MAWD)**, called Workers with Job Success (WJS). Referred to Health, Jan. 10, 2020. See also **SB 890.**

**Impact:** This legislation would create a new category under the Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD). Currently, MAWD services are only available to individuals with disabilities as long as they earn less than $61,000 annually. In this new category, workers will pay 7.5% of their income to the MAWD program to cover their health care, which is a 2.5% increase from the current 5%. This means, when a worker earns $75,000 annually they will pay 100% of the average cost of the MAWD program.

**HB 2203.** Introduced by Representative Morgan Cephas (D-Philadelphia). This bill would establish the **Assisted Living & Long-Term Care Resident Bill of Rights**. Referred to Health, Jan. 10, 2020.

**Impact:** This legislation would establish a Bill of Rights for assisted living and long-term care residents to ensure the health and safety of each individual and that they are free from abuse and neglect.

**HB 2204.** Introduced by Representative Morgan Cephas (D-Philadelphia). This bill would establish the **Assisted Living & Long-Term Care Resident Bill of Rights** so that they may be protected from discrimination regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, age, or ethnicity. Referred to Health, Jan. 10, 2020.

**Impact:** This legislation would prohibit any use of discrimination based upon race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, or sex.

**HB 2236.** Introduced by Representative Seth M. Grove (R-York). This bill would amend current law as requested by the **Centers for Independent Living**, to change the agency charged with overseeing the center from the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) to the Department of Human Services (DHS). Referred to Health, Jan. 21, 2020.

**Impact:** This legislation would alter the Department tasked with overseeing the work of the Centers for Independent Living from the Department of Labor & Industry to the Department of Human Services. This would align the work of the Centers with a state agency better prepared to address the issues and concerns of the centers and those they service.

**HB 2331.** Introduced by Representative John T. Galloway (D-Bucks). This bill would establish a **mental health care services clearinghouse**. This clearinghouse will serve as a publicly accessible registry of mental health care resources available across the Commonwealth and will accordingly assist school personnel in connecting families to community mental health resources. Referred to Human Services, March 5, 2020. Removed from table, Sept. 1, 2020.

**Impact:** Streamlines and makes a publicly accessible site for information on mental health care services that are available in Pennsylvania. This clearinghouse would increase coordination efforts among schools, communities, and mental health providers.

**HB 2350** introduced by Representative Kaufer (R-Luzerne), referred to Health and Human Services, July 13, 2020 [Senate], Third consideration and final passage, July 7, 2020; **HB 2351** introduced by Representative  Thomas (R-Bucks), referred to Health and Human Services, June 29, 2020 [Senate]; **HB 2352** introduced by Representative Grove (R-York), re-committed to Rules, June 9, 2020 [House]; **HB 2353** introduced by Representative Gaydos (R-Allegheny), referred to State Government, June 30, 2020 [Senate]; **HB 2354** introduced by Representative Clint Owlett (Tioga)**,** referred to State Government, June 30, 2020 [Senate]; **HB 2355** introduced by Representative Sankey (R-Clearfield), referred to Health and Human Services, June 29, 2020 [Senate]. These bills include a package to reform state government operations including Medicaid. This package will codify the recent grand jury recommendations along with enacting statutes which mirror federal law to allow the commonwealth to **combat fraud in Medicaid** and the rest of state government while recouping state tax dollars.

**Impact:** Would alter how providers must report information to receive reimbursement under Medicaid and codifies a structure of penalties for those who actively seek to defraud when putting in for reimbursement for services under Medicaid.

**HB 2359.** Introduced by Representative Timothy J. O’Neal (R-Washington). This bill would intend to preserve access to **ventilator care** in Pennsylvania by dedicating additional Medicaid funding to those facilities already demonstrating a significant commitment to caring for these Pennsylvanians. Referred to Health April 27, 2020. Companion to **SB 959**, introduced by Senator Camera Bartolotta (R-Beaver).

**Impact:** Provides increased Medicaid funding to facilities that offer ventilator care in the Commonwealth to address an access to care crisis and incentives for facilities to expand geographic access. This will expand the ability for these care facilities to assist more individuals throughout the state.

**HB 2387.** Introduced by Representative Stanley Saylor (R-York). This bill provides appropriations from the **General Fund** for the expenses for fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. Referred to Appropriations, April 6, 2020, Re-committed to Appropriations, April 20, 2020. Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2020 becoming **Act 1A of 2020.**

**Impact**: Details the money appropriated to services in the Interim State Budget. See breakdown at the beginning of issue for in-depth detail.

**HB 2391.** Introduced by Representative Joseph C. Hohenstein (D-Philadelphia). This bill would fill in those gaps of the federal government’s proposed **Families First Coronavirus Response Act** by guaranteeing that all employees will receive emergency paid sick leave if they are not already covered by the proposed federal bill. Referred to Labor and Industry, April 14, 2020.

**Impact:** Protects workers and their families by providing a financial safety net to workers who do not have access to emergency paid sick leave as provided under the Federal paid sick leave action.

**HB 2405.** Introduced by Representative Cris Dush (R-Jefferson). This bill would provide for **reporting of appropriated funds**. Referred to Appropriations, April 14, 2020.

**Impact:** The agencies within the Commonwealth are required to submit a report on the money appropriated to them in each of the 10 months before the end of the fiscal year to the Governor, Secretary of the Budget, the State Treasurer, and members of the General Assembly. It also requires that each agency report an itemized list of financial obligations that will be made publicly available on the website of the Governor’s Budget Office.

**HB 2437.** Introduced by Representative Todd Stephens (R-Montgomery). This bill would provide for **health care facility reporting** relating to COVID-19 and for duties of the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services. Referred to Aging and Older Adult Services, April 27, 2020. Re-committed to Appropriations, June 9, 2020. Third consideration and final passage, June10, 2020.

**Impact:** Requires information be made publicly available on the number of COVID-19 cases in each long-term care facility that has been reported to the Department of Health and the protocol for isolating positives cases in a long-term care center.

**HB 2481.** Introduced by Representative Robert F. Matzie (D-Allegheny). This bill calls for the immediate inspection of all **long-term care facilities** in Pennsylvania. This bill would require the PA Department of Health to determine and assess each facilities’ infection control procedures, provide testing for every resident and worker, record all findings and report said findings to the public. In addition, the Department will be required to provide the appropriate personnel and resources to each facility, as necessary, to deal with any observed outbreak in real time. Referred to Health, May 4, 2020.

**Impact:** Provides the public with information on long-term care facilities in Pennsylvania gained through inspections and assessments of each facility. Assists the long-term care facility in having t personnel and protective equipment and resources to respond to the impact of COVID-19.

**HB 2510.** Introduced by Representative Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny). This bill allocates CARES Act funds received by the state for vital supports and services. Referred to Appropriations, May 12, 2020. Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2020 becoming **Act 24 of 2020.**

**Impact:** Appropriates Federal CARES Act funding received by the Commonwealth to different services to address the impact of COVID-19. The Intellectual Disability Community Waiver received $260 million and Autism Services received $720,000.

**HB 2537.** Introduced by Representative Seth M. Grove (R-York). This bill would amend the Act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, providing for coronavirus aid, relief and emergency response; and establishing the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Emergency Response Fund**. Due to these statutory restrictions, this proposed legislation will ensure strict oversight. Referred to Finance, May 21, 2020.

**Impact**: Instills strict oversight in the appropriation and use of CARES Act money appropriated to the Commonwealth. The State Treasurer will be in charge of the funds and establish a reimbursement system to ensure funds spent meet the strict federal requirements.

**HB 2538.** Introduced by Representative Jason Ortitay (R-Allegheny). This bill would establish the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Emergency Response Fund and the Financial Assistance for **Front Line Workers Program**. Referred to Finance, May 21, 2020.

**Impact:** Would appropriate $400 million to provide front-line workers with financial assistance in recognition for the hazardous work environment they face. It would amend the fiscal code to create a program under the Department of Revenue to allow for specific individuals, characterized as essential workers, to apply for financial reimbursement from the Commonwealth. They must be employed by a: hospital/hospital network; long-term care facility; retail grocery store; licensed pharmacy; police department; fire department; volunteer fire department; EMS company; social advocacy organization; or financial institution.

**HB 2543.** Introduced by Representative Todd Stephens (R-Montgomery). This bill would provide for COVID-19 testing in **long-term care facilities** and for duties of the Department of Health and Department of Human Services. Referred to State Government, May 21, 2020.

**Impact:** Requires the Department of Health to test all employees and residents in PA’s long-term care facilities for COVID-19.

**HB 2560.** Introduced by Representative Jason Ortitay (R-Allegheny). This bill would require the Secretary of Education to immediately issue a waiver to any order by the Governor closing any public or nonpublic schools based on the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020 or any extension of that order to all public schools and nonpublic schools to permit them to provide in-person special education services that comply with the individualized education program under the **Individuals With Disabilities Education** Act (IDEA). Referred to Education, May 28, 2020.

**Impact:** Would allow in-person special education services to occur during the Governor’s emergency declaration as long as social distancing guidelines are followed.

**HB 2574.** Introduced by Representative David H. Zimmerman (R-Lancaster). This bill would provide for duties of **long-term care** nursing facilities and personal care homes during public health emergency. Referred to Health, June 8, 2020.

**Impact:** Requires nursing homes to house and feed employees who require quarantine due to their exposure to COVID-19 in the facility during a public health emergency. It would reduce the likelihood of the employee possibly infecting their family members.

**HB 2626.** Introduced by Representative Dan Moul (R-York). This bill would implement **election and voter reform** for the upcoming 2020 General Election in regards to the impact of COVID-19. Passed the House 112-90. Re-referred to Senate Appropriations September 9, 2020.

**Impact**: Would amend election rules through the following provisions: counties can begin to pre-canvass ballots the Saturday before election day; limit the location a mail-in/absentee ballot may be dropped off in person; move the deadline to register for a mail-in/absentee ballot from 7 days to 15 days before the election; requires counties return a report on the implementation of the election; would allow watchers to go to polling locations outside of their own registered polling location; and requires the election board to contact a voter who’s signature on their mail-in/absentee ballot did not match the one on file to ensure that the ballot is accurate.

**HB 2640**.  Introduced by Representative Austin Davis **(D-Allegheny).** This bill would institute a **Direct Care Worker Wage Advisory Board**, a minimum wage for Direct Care workers, and a Direct Care Worker registry. Referred to House Labor & Industry Committee June 29, 2020.

**Impact**: Establishes a Direct Care Worker Wage Advisory Board that would be tasked with examining the challenges to recruiting and retaining direct care workers. Requires the Secretary of Human Services to establish a minimum wage for direct care workers in the Commonwealth. Lastly, the Advisory Board will establish a registry of direct care workers that providers must update quarterly with their direct care worker staff information. This registry will only be available to direct care worker organizations.

**HB 2650**.  Introduced by Representative Thomas P. Murt (R-Montgomery). This bill would establish a Statewide registry of **caregivers who abuse** individuals with disabilities or special needs; and imposing duties on the Department of Human Services. Referred to Human Services, July 1, 2020.

**Impact**: Requires the Department of Human Services establish a registry within the Commonwealth of individuals who have been charged or convicted of abuse against an individual with disabilities. The registry would be made publicly available.

**HB 2679**.  Introduced by Representative Karen Boback (R-Columbia). This bill would provide for primary **caregiver support** program. Referred to Human Services, July 8, 2020.

**Impact:** Expands the primary caregiver support program to allow for respite care services of up to 3 hours per week for care receivers to attend an older adult day living center.

**HB 2684**.  Introduced by Representative Karen Boback (R-Columbia). This bill would provide for a primary **caregiver support** program and caregivers of individuals with disabilities. Referred to Human Services, July 14, 2020. Re-referred to Aging and Older Adult Services, Aug. 28, 2020.

**Impact:** Expands the Family Caregiver Support Program to include caregivers for individuals with disabilities to be eligible for respite and caregiving related service supplies.

**HB 2740.** Introduced by Representative Natalie Mihalek (R-Washington). This bill would establish the **Nonprofit Economic Emergency Delivery System (“NEEDS”) Grants Program**. Referred to Appropriations, Aug. 6, 2020. Companion legislation, **SB 1314**.

**Impact**: This Grant Program would be for eligible community-based human services nonprofit organizations who have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and funded through $200 million CARES Act money received by the Commonwealth.

**HB 2767**. Introduced by Representative Ed Neilson (D-Philadelphia). This bill would establish the Long-Term Services and Supports Commission, the Long-Term Services and Supports Council and the **Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Fund**, imposing duties on the Department of Human Services and the Department of Revenue and imposing a payroll premium. Referred to Aging and Older Adult Services, Aug. 7, 2020.

**Impact:** Established a fund to provide up to $36,500 in lifetime benefits to eligible beneficiaries for long term care services, such as respite care, in-home caregiving, time in a nursing home/assisted living facility, or home modifications.

**HB 2785**. Introduced by Representative Joseph C. Hohenstein (D-Philadelphia). This bill would mandate the **inclusion** of the political, economic, and social contributions of individuals with disabilities in Pennsylvania’s K-12 curriculum. Referred to Education, Aug. 13, 2020.

**Impact:** Would expand the knowledge of students across the Commonwealth with the contributions individuals with disabilities have made to their society and community.

**HB 2788**. Introduced by Representative Jesse Topper (R-Bedford). This bill would provide for extended **special education enrollment** due to COVID-19; and, in terms and courses of study, provide for an optional year of education due to COVID-19. Referred to Education, Aug. 18, 2020. Third consideration and final passage, Sept. 2, 2020, 197-5. Referred to [Senate] Education, Sept. 28, 2020.

**Impact:** Address concerns of educational regression for students with disabilities due to COVID-19 and allows for students who aged out of special education services during the outbreak of COVID-19 to attend school for the 2020-2021 school year.

**HB 2798**. Introduced by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-Allegheny).  This bill would help support the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) that are essential to the delivery of services for Pennsylvanians with **intellectual disabilities and autism** by requiring that rates annually be set based on a national market consumer index. Referred to Human Services, Aug. 18, 2020.

**Impact:** Would require the Department of Human Services to use the national market consumer rate to set the rates for DSPs annually, and if there is a percentage increase in the national market rate implement the higher rate. Currently, the Department can do a rate reset every 3 years but is not required to implement any rate increase.

**SB 10:** Introduced by Senator Joe Scarnati (R-Tioga). This bill would implement **election and voter reform** for the upcoming 2020 General Election in regards to the impact of COVID-19. Referred to State Government, Aug. 24, 2020.

**Impact**: Would amend election rules through the following provisions: counties can begin to pre-canvass ballots the Saturday before election day; limit the location a mail-in/absentee ballot may be dropped off in person; move the deadline to register for a mail-in/absentee ballot from 7 days to 15 days before the election; would allow watchers to go to polling locations outside of their own registered polling location; and requires the election board to contact a voter who’s signature on their mail-in/absentee ballot did not match the one on file to ensure that the ballot is accurate.

**SB 12.** Introduced by Senator Christine M. Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia). This bill would increase **minimum wage** and mandates that savings be used to increase childcare and **home and community-based services** to ensure that these providers are able to pay the increased minimum wage. Referred to Labor and Industry, March 25, 2019. See also, **HB 1215** introduced by Representative Patty Kim (D-Dauphin).

**Impact:** Would increase the minimum wage to $12/hour and then it will continue to increase each year until it reaches $15 per hour and then will be tied to the consumer price index.

**SB 30.** Introduced by Senator Thomas H. Killion (R-Chester). This bill would create a state housing tax credit to incentivize private investment to create new and preserve existing **affordable rental housing** which will increase economic opportunity for senior citizens, and individuals with disabilities. Referred to Urban Affairs and Housing, March 21, 2019, Third consideration and final passage in the Senate, Jan. 28, 2020. Referred to House Urban Affairs, Jan. 30, 2020. Removed from the table, June 10, 2020.

**Impact:** This legislation would create a housing tax credit to incentivize a private investment into creating new and preserve affordable rental housing. It would increase economic opportunity for senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and families who are seeking affordable residential options.

**SB 31.** Introduced by Senator Art Haywood (D-Montgomery). This bill would eliminate the $25 million limit on RTT funds deposited into the PHARE Fund annually. This increased revenue can be spent on creating and preserving **affordable rental** housing units, assisting veterans, persons with disabilities, the elderly. Lifting the artificial cap will ensure more of these individuals receive help with payment assistance, counseling and construction. Referred to Urban Affairs and Housing, April 25, 2019. Re-referred to Appropriations, June 24, 2019.

**Impact:** Would allow PHARE to receive critical additional funding that will enable more seniors, families of low and moderate income, and people with special housing needs to receive much-needed assistance.

**SB 134.** Introduced by Senator Christine M. Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia). This bill would give **people with disabilities** additional points on the State Civil Service Exam. Referred to State Government, Jan. 31, 2019.

**Impact:** Would increase the accessibility for individuals with disabilities in becoming members of the civil service and being gainfully employed by the State.

**SB 234.** Introduced by Senator Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh). This bill provides **appropriations** for fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Referred to Appropriations, Feb. 7, 2019. Reported as committed, March 18, 2019. First Consideration, March 18, 2019. Second Consideration, March 19, 2019. Re-committed to Appropriations, March 20, 2019.

**Impact:** Appropriates funds to cover the costs and services of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**SB 268.** Introduced by Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York). This bill would integrate **behavioral health and physical health services** in Pennsylvania’s Medicaid program, **HealthChoices**. Referred to Health and Human Services, Feb. 7, 2019.

**Impact**: Would coordinate mental health, substance abuse and primary care services in an effort to produce the best outcomes and to best care for people with complex health needs. Also, it allows for the integration of a single treatment plan (i.e. confidentiality barriers), easier data collection and monitoring of outcomes tying together the entire cost of care.

**SB 277.** Introduced by Senator Michele Brooks (R-Crawford). This bill would provide for a medical assistance **“deemed eligible”** program for seniors for home care and home health services. Referred to Health and Human Services, Feb. 7, 2019.Re-referred to Appropriations, June 24, 2019 [Senate].See also, **HB 51** introduced by Representative Aaron Bernstine (R-Beaver).

**Impact:** Would extend the "presumptive eligibility" to those who meet the qualifications for Medicaid and who wish to remain in their homes instead of in a more costly and restrictive setting.

**SB 322.**Introduced by Senator Scott Martin(R-Lancaster). This bill would reduce the per capita cost of health care for **Medical Assistance** enrollees. The health initiative would be carried out through an RFP. Referred to Health and Human Services, Feb. 22, 2019.

**Impact**: Allows for more specific requirements to demonstrate program savings within this program. It also allows for the state to cancel the contract after 6 months if no savings are reported within that time, as well as extend the program an additional 6 months and beyond provided that savings continue to exceed the cost to administer the initiative.

**SB 375.** Introduced by Senator Lisa M. Boscola (D-Lehigh). This bill would provide for **voter’s bill of rights**. Referred to State Government, March 4, 2019.

**SB 390.** Introduced by Senator Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne). This bill would delay the implementation of the Department of Human Services (DHS) shift to utilizing a statewide or regional broker for the **Medical Assistance Transportation Program** (MATP). Referred to Health and Human Services, March 5, 2019. Re-referred to Appropriations, April 30, 2019.

**Impact:** Would delay the implementation of the shift to a statewide or regional broker for the MATP system.

**SB 411.** Introduced by Senator Mike Folmer (R-Dauphin). This bill would further provide for **absentee voting**. Referred to State Government, March 19, 2019. Re-referred to Appropriations, June 19, 2019.

**Impact:** Would amend the Constitution to eliminate limitations on absentee ballots and empowering voters to request and submit absentee ballots for any reason – allowing them to vote early and by mail.

**SB 421.** Introduced by Senator Lisa M. Boscola (D-Lehigh). This bill would amend the Pennsylvania **Election Code**. Referred to State Government, March 25, 2019. Approved by the Governor, Oct. 31, 2019 becoming **Act 77 of 2019.**

**Impact:** Would eliminate the ability for straight-ticket voting in Pennsylvania for elections.

**SB 422.** Introduced by Senator Elder A. Vogel Jr. (R-Beaver). This bill would establish the **Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory Board**. Members of the board will include legislative appointees, one member of each congressional district, an advocate for individuals with disabilities, an advocate for voter’s rights, and a county election official. Referred to State Government, March 12, 2019. Approved by the Governor, March 27, 2020 becoming **Act 12 of 2020**.

**Impact:** The Advisory Board will work to: identify ways to update voting in the Commonwealth; collaborate with agencies to study election related issues; study new voting/election technologies; identify and promote best practices to ensure voting integrity and efficiency; and publish an annual report with their findings on the PA Department of State’s website.

**SB 469.** Introduced by Senator Daniel Laughlin (R-Erie). This bill would protect **victims and witnesses with intellectual disabilities or autism.** Referred to Judiciary March 22, 2019. Signed in Senate and House, June 19, 2019. Signed by the Governor, June 28, 2019 becoming **Act 30** **of 2019.** See also, **HB 503** introduced by Representative Garth D. Everett (R-Lycoming).

**Impact:** Would allow for individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism to qualify for the tender years exception when testifying against an abuser. This legislation protects individuals when testifying by allowing for alternate forms of testimony to be accepted.

**SB 571.** Introduced by Senator Daylin Leach (D-Delaware). This bill would require the Department of **Education** to develop and implement a curriculum educating students about mental health and physical and developmental disabilities. Referred to Education, April 18, 2019.

**Impact**: Would create a model curriculum that emphasizes inclusiveness and combats the stigma surrounding mental health and disabilities.

**SB 580.** Introduced by Senator Daniel Laughlin (R-Erie). This bill would establish “The Family Care Act,” to establish a **statewide Family and Medical Leave** Insurance Program. Referred to Labor and Industry, July 8, 2019. See also, HB 1739 introduced by Representative Wendi Thomas (R-Bucks).

**Impact:** Would facilitate families in being able to access family and medical leave as all working individuals would make a small payroll contribution to support the program, which would be administered by the Department of Labor and Industry.

**SB 603.** Introduced by Senator Anthony H. Williams (D-Delaware). This bill would create the offense of falsely representing an animal as a **service animal**. Referred to Judiciary, April 30, 2019.

**Impact**: Would penalize those who falsely claim an animal as a service animal and ensure those who need to access a services animal and protections under the ADA continue to do so.

**SB 664.** Introduced by Senator Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh). This bill would place the **burden of proof** on school districts, rather than a party seeking relief, in **special education hearings.** It was introduced and referred to the Senate Education Committee, May 24, 2019.

**Impact**: Would assist parents and families in fighting for the rights of their students with disabilities by requiring the burden of proof in special education hearings be on the school district.

**SB 755.** Introduced by Senator John T. Yudichak (D-Carbon). This bill would establish the **Livable Home Tax Credit**. This legislation will benefit residents, especially senior and disabled residents, who seek to make home modifications that would improve accessibility and enable them to remain at their current residence. Referred to Finance, June 12, 2019.

**Impact:** Would allow eligible homeowners to receive a tax credit up to $2,000 for accessibility features in a new residence or 50% of the amount expended (up to $2,000) to complete renovations to an existing residence. During the second year of the program, the maximum tax credit would increase to $5,000.

**SB 799**. Introduced by Senator Katie J. Muth (D-Berks). This bill would provide emergency relief to those who previously received support through **General Assistance**. Referred to Health and Human Services, July 23, 2019. See also, **HB 1709** introduced by Representative Malcolm Kenyatta (D-Philadelphia).

**Impact:** Would provide assistance to the most vulnerable by giving emergency relief to those who were legible for the program before it was terminated.

**SB 818.** Introduced by Senator Judy Schwank (R-Berks). This legislation would mean adopting universal, “no-excuse” **absentee voting**; establishing a true “permanent absentee voter” status; and amending the time frame and deadlines for absentee voting. It also will make changes to the absentee voting process to ensure the integrity of the process while simplifying the application and submission process, and to ensure that all legitimate votes are counted. Referred to State Government Aug. 7, 2019.

**Impact:** Would enable Pennsylvanians who utilize absentee voting to have a permanent absentee voting status rather than having to re-apply every election cycle.

**SB 819.** Introduced by Senator Bob Mensch (R-Berks). This bill would fix a constitutionality issue created by a state Supreme Court decision in 2015 that it is unconstitutional for the offenses listed in the **Older Protective Services Act** to result in a lifetime employment ban without further evaluation. Referred to Aging and Youth, Aug. 7, 2019. Referred to Aging and Older Adult Services, Oct. 30, 2019 House.

**Impact:** Would improve the delivery of resources and streamline the services provided to older adults through (1) streamline communications between organizations and agencies that care for seniors, and find ways to increase health care efficiency; (2) address the rise of financial exploitation of older Pennsylvanians by giving financial institutions tools to intervene if they suspect an elder is being taken advantage of through the illegal taking, misuse or concealment of money, property or assets; and (3) provide mandatory reporters (physicians, health care providers and police) with a procedure for reporting suspected elder abuse, as well as give them the tools necessary to work together on the investigations that follow.

**SB 837.** Introduced by Senator Michele Brooks (R-Crawford). This bill would allow constituents to obtain a **disability placard** in their respective legislative district offices rather than waiting to receive them in the mail. Referred to Transportation, Aug. 26, 2019. See also **HB 2189.**

**Impact:** Would reduce the wait time individuals with disabilities have on receiving their disability placard from the PA Department of Transportation.

**SB 852.** Introduced by Christine M. Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia). This bill would create the **Office for People with Disabilities** within and to be administered by the Office of the Governor and make the office permanent by statute. Referred to State Government, Sept. 20, 2019.

**Impact**: Would permanently establish the Office for People with Disabilities and reduce the requirement that it be re-authorized by the Governor.

**SB 857.** Introduced by Senator Elder A. Vogel Jr. (R-Beaver). This bill would provide for telemedicine, authorizing the regulation of telemedicine by professional licensing boards and providing for **insurance coverage of telemedicine**. Referred to Banking and Insurance, Sept. 19, 2019. Signed in Senate, April 21, 20, Signed in House, April 21, 2020. Vetoed by the Governor, April 29, 2020, **Veto 4 of 2020.** The Senate has laid the bill together with Governor’s Veto Message, on the table, May 6, 2020.

**Impact:** Authorizes and provides for the use of telemedicine within the Commonwealth.

**SB 890.** Introduced by Senator Bob Mensch (R-Berks). This bill would allow individuals with disabilities to increase earnings under a new category of **MAWD**, called Workers with Job Success (WJS). Referred to Health and Human Services, Oct. 8, 2019. Passed the Senate, 50-0, Oct. 5, 2020. See also **HB 2202.**

**Impact**: Would create a new category under MAWD that would allow for a higher earning level for an individual with disabilities who has participated in the MAWD program for the previous 12 consecutive months. Under this new category, individuals would contribute a larger percentage towards their medical assistance benefits and still be able to retain access to their benefits.

**SB 906.** Introduced by Senator John T. Yudichak (D-Carbon). This bill would provide for **White Haven and Polk State center closure moratorium.** Referred to Health and Human Services, Oct. 18, 2019. Final passage, Nov. 18, 2019. Referred to House Health Nov. 19, 2019, final passage, Jan. 15, 2020. Signed in Senate, Jan. 27, 2020.Vetoed by the Governor, Feb. 12, 2020 becoming **Veto 1 of 2020.** See also **HB1918.**

**Impact:** This legislation would halt any closure of a state institution for individuals with disabilities for a period of 5 years. It would convene a taskforce which would be responsible for laying out a proposed closure plan once the 5 year moratorium has concluded.

**SB 914.** Introduced by Senator Pam Iovino (D-Allegheny) and Senator Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington). This bill would require state-owned buildings and certain places of public accommodation, including auditoriums, convention centers, sports arenas, and amusement parks with a maximum occupancy of 2,000 or more people, to install and maintain at least one **adult changing station.** Referred to Labor and Industry Committee, Oct. 23, 2019. See also **HB 117.**

**Impact:** Would allow for greater accessibility for individuals with disabilities and their families in community living and activities out in the community.

**SB 924.** Introduced by Senator Lawrence M. Farnese Jr. (D-Philadelphia). This bill would provide for a streamlined process to acquire **guardianship for medically disabled adult children**. Referred to Judiciary, Oct. 24, 2019. First consideration, Oct. 29, 2019. Laid on the table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9), Feb. 4, 2020.

**Impact:** Would alter the process of attaining and retaining guardianship in certain cases for individuals who are medically disabled adult children by not requiring going through the judicial process if in the possession of a note from the doctor.

**SB 959.** Introduced by Senator Camera Bartolotta (R-Beaver). This bill would intend to preserve access to **ventilator care** in Pennsylvania by dedicating additional Medicaid funding to those facilities already demonstrating a significant commitment to caring for these Pennsylvanians. Referred to Health and Human Services, Nov. 20, 2019. Re-referred to Appropriations, April 29, 2020. Referred to Health, May 12, 2020 [House]. See **HB 2359,** introduced by Representative Timothy J. O’Neal (R-Washington).

**Impact**: Provides increased Medicaid funding to facilities that offer ventilator care in the Commonwealth to address an access to care crisis and incentives for facilities to expand geographic access. This will expand the ability for these care facilities to assist more individuals throughout the state.

**SB 970.** Introduced by Senator Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh). This bill would merge the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services into a new **Department of Health and Human Services**. Referred to Health and Human Services, Jan. 24, 2020. See also **SB 1126.**

**Impact:** Requires the consolidation of the PA Department of Health and PA Department of Human Services to ensure better coordination of programs and services, while reducing administrative inefficiencies.

**SB 1108.** Introduced by Senator Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh). A Supplement to the act of June 28, 2019 (P.L.839, No. 1A), known as the **General Appropriation** Act of 2019, adding Federal appropriations to the Executive Department of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. Referred to Appropriations, April 7, 2020. Third consideration and final passage, April 21, 2020. Referred to House Appropriations, April 21, 2020. Third consideration and final passage, May 28, 2020. Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2020 becoming **Act 2A of 2020**.

**Impact:** Appropriates Federal CARES Act funding received by the Commonwealth to different services to address the impact of COVID-19. The Intellectual Disability Community Waiver received $260 million and Autism Services received $720,000.

**SB 1126.** Introduced by Senator Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh). This bill would merge the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services into a new **Department of Health and Human Services**. Referred to Health and Human Services, April 21, 2020. See also **SB 970.**

**Impact**: Requires the consolidation of the PA Department of Health and PA Department of Human Services into the PA Department of Health & Human Services to ensure better coordination of programs and services, while reducing administrative inefficiencies.

**SB 1314.** Introduced by Senator Judy Ward (R-Blair). This bill would establish the **Nonprofit Economic Emergency Delivery System (“NEEDS”) Grants Program**. First Consideration, September 9, 2020. Companion legislation, **HB 2740.**

**Impact**: This Grant Program would be for eligible community-based human services nonprofit organizations who have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and funded through $200 million CARES Act money received by the Commonwealth.

**SB 1350**. Introduced by Senator Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh). This bill further provides for additional **appropriations** and replacement of appropriations from the General Fund and other funds and accounts for the expenses of the Executive Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Referred to Appropriations, Oct. 2, 2020. Approved by the Governor, Nov. 23, 2020 becoming

**Act No. 17A**.

**Impact**: Designates funding for the general fund through June 30, 2021 and allocates the remaining CARES Act funding.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**HR 10.** Introduced by Representative Francis X. Ryan (R-Lebanon). This resolution urges Congress of the United States to fund the costs associated with **special education**. Referred to Education, Jan. 28, 2019.

**HR 74**. Introduced by Representative Angel Cruz (D-Philadelphia). This resolution declares that the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is committed to **equal rights for individuals with cognitive disabilities** **to technology and information access**. Referred to Human Services, Feb. 11, 2019. Removed from table, March 24, 2020 [House]. Laid on the table, May 12, 2020.

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**HR 718.** Introduced by Representative Tina Pickett (R-Bradford). A Resolution designating the month of March 2020 as “**Brain Injury Awareness Month**” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted**, May 20, 2020.

**HR 143.** Introduced by Representative Stephen Kinsey (D-Philadelphia). This resolution    declares March 2019 as “**Disabilities Awareness Month**” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted,** March 20, 2019.

**HR 445**. Introduced by Representative David R. Millard (R-Carbon). This bill would establish an advisory committee to conduct a study on the challenges individuals with disabilities face when **traveling within Pennsylvania**. Referred to Tourism and Recreational Development, Sept. 3, 2019.

**HR 543.** Introduced by Representative Dan L. Miller (D-Allegheny). A Resolution recognizing and honoring the 30th anniversary of the date of enactment of the **Americans with Disabilities Act** of 1990. **Adopted**, Feb. 4, 2020.

**HR 789.** Introduced by Representative Tarah Toohill (R-Luzerne). A Resolution recognizing the month of March 2020 as **Intellectual Disabilities Awareness** Month. Referred to House Human Services, Feb. 28, 2020. Reported as committed, May 19, 2020. **Adopted**, July 8, 2020.

**HR 860.** Introduced by Representative Morgan Cephas (D-Philadelphia). A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 6420 and update the **CARES act** to allow children younger than 19 years of age, students 24 years of age and younger and all dependents with disabilities to receive direct cash payments from the Federal Government. Referred to Finance, May 4, 2020.

**HR 864.** Introduced by Representative Eric R. Nelson (R-Westmoreland). A Resolution establishing a select subcommittee on COVID-19 in **long-term care** facilities to investigate, review and make recommendations concerning the response to COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in this Commonwealth. Referred to Aging and Older Adult Services, May 12, 2020.

**HR 935.** Introduced by Representative Thomas Murt (R-Montgomery). This Resolution designates the month of October 2020 as **“Lifesharing Awareness Month”** in Pennsylvania**.** Reported as committed from Human Services, Aug. 28, 2020. **Adopted**, Oct. 21, 2020.

**HR 950.** Introduced by Representative Thomas Murt (R-Montgomery). This Resolution designates the month of September 2020 as **“Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month”** in Pennsylvania. Reported as Committed, September 2, 2020. **Adopted**, Sept. 29, 2020.

**HR 952**.  Introduced by Representative Kristine C. Howard (D-Chester). This Resolution creates a task force to study the effects and effectiveness of remote learning, with the ultimate goal of issuing a report detailing critical factors and barriers to successful implementation of remote learning, with special attention given to educational outcomes and **social emotional, mental and physical health**, and to identify best practices to better inform future research, legislation and school policies. Referred to Education, July 22, 2020.

**HR 1010**. Introduced by Representative Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster). A resolution recognizing the **essential work** performed by individuals with disabilities during the 2020 pandemic. **Adopted**, Sept. 30, 2020.

**HR 1043**. Introduced by Representative Karen Boback (R-Lackawanna). A resolution designating the month of November 2020 as **‘Family Caregiver Month’** in Pennsylvania. **Adopted**, Nov. 18, 2020.

**SR 302.** Introduced by Senator Christine M. Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia). A Resolution declaring the month of March 2020 as **Disabilities Awareness** Month. Adopted, Feb. 5, 2020. **Adopted**, Feb. 5, 2020.

**SR 350.** Introduced by Senator Bob Mensch (R-Berks). This Resolution celebrates the **30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act**. Referred to Rules and Executive Nominations, July 29, 2020.

**SR 361**. Introduced by Senator Lisa Baker (R- Luzerne). This Resolution designates the month of September 2020 as **“Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month”** in Pennsylvania. Referred to Rules and Executive Nominations, September 9, 2020.

**SR 395**. Introduced by Senator Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia). A resolution designating the month of October 2020 as **‘National Disability Employment Awareness Month’** in Pennsylvania. Referred to Senate Rules and Executive Nominations, Sept. 29, 2020.

**SR 396**. Introduced by Senator Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia).  A resolution recognizing the **essential work** performed by individuals with disabilities during the 2020 pandemic. It has been referred to Senate Rules and Executive Nominations, Sept. 29, 2020. **Adopted**, Nov. 19, 2020.