

**Representative Bryan Cutler**  
**100<sup>th</sup> Legislative District**  
**Pennsylvania House of Representatives**  
Media Contact: Mike Straub  
717-260-6397

## **Fact Sheet:** **COVID-19 Related Actions in General Assembly**

### **SB 751 Amendments- Education Code**

- Waives the 180-day requirement for all schools, public and nonpublic, and home education programs.
- Allows the Secretary of Education to:
  - Order the closure of all public schools.
  - Increase the number of allowable flexible instruction days and waive applicable timelines to apply to participate in flexible instruction days.
  - Waive career and technical education program hours.
  - Waive performance data used in teacher evaluation system.
  - Waive Pre-K Counts hours.
  - Waive 12-week student teacher requirement.
  - No school employee employed as of March 13, 2020, shall receive more or less compensation because of school closures or shortened school year.
- **Continuing education during school closure**
  - School entities must make good faith effort to develop a plan to offer continuity of education using alternative means during period of school closure.
  - PA Department of Education (PDE) must provide guidance; Intermediate Units can provide technical assistance.
  - Plans must be submitted to PDE and school entities must post on their website.

### **SB 422 Amendments – Election Reforms**

- Moves Pennsylvania’s April 28, 2020, primary election to June 2, 2020.
- Gives county election officials flexibility to consolidate up to 60% of polling places or relocate to locations previously restricted from being polling places. For example, volunteer fire companies with non-profit liquor licenses.
- Allows counties to begin processing absentee and mail-in ballots at 7 a.m. on election day.
- New candidates *cannot* be chosen for any races originally set for April 28, 2020.

### **HB 1232 Amendments – Fiscal Code Changes**

**Department of Revenue (DOR):**

- Provides temporary authorization to the Department of Revenue to extend the local filing for tax liabilities through July 15, 2020.

**Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED):**

- Provides temporary authorization to DCED to extend the filing and payment deadlines for local Earned Income Tax to coincide with the extension granted for federal and state income taxes.

**Commonwealth's COVID-19 Response:**

- Permits the Secretary of the Budget to transfer up to \$50 million to purchase medical equipment and supplies for hospitals, nursing facilities, and emergency medical services to meet patient and staff needs to respond to COVID-19.

**Extension of Temporary Regulations:**

- Extends the temporary regulations authorized and published under Act 16 of 2016 (Medical Marijuana Act) until Nov. 20, 2021.

**Enhanced Revenue Collection Account (ERCA)**

- Establishes ERCA as a permanent account in the General Fund (current language of HB 1232).

**HB 68 Amendment – Unemployment Compensation (UC)**

- Requires employers to provide a notice about the availability of the UC program to employees at the time of separation.
- Enacts COVID-19 emergency provisions, which expire on 1/1/21.
  - Waives the waiting week requirement and job search/registration requirements for all claimants for the duration of the disaster emergency.
  - Provides relief from charges for contributory employers (those who pay UC taxes) and reimbursable employers (nonprofits and public employers) who elected to pay a solvency fee to the UC Trust Fund.
    - Relief for benefit charges for weeks of unemployment during the duration of the disaster emergency will be COVID-19-related and will be provided automatically.
  - Provides more lenient repayment terms for reimbursable employers who did not pay the solvency fee.