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LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH STATE SENATOR ***** 18
LISA BOSCOLA



Boscola Applauds Adoption of Sales Tax Holiday for School Supplies

By Senator Lisa Boscola

Lisa Boscola announced that her legislation establishing a sales tax holiday on school supplies was unanimously adopted by the state Senate as an amendment to House Bill 1667, tax code legislation advancing as part of the Pennsylvania budget process. The amendment is based on Boscola's previously introduced Senate Bill 717. Aimed at combating the effects of inflation, the provision provides targeted tax relief on items commonly found on back-to-school shopping lists, such as book bags, crayons, textbooks, and tablets.

Senator Boscola Floor Remarks on HB 1667 If enacted, the proposal would establish a two-week sales tax holiday to take place annually, from the first Saturday in August through the third Saturday in August. During this two-week holiday, school supplies, art supplies, and instructional materials with a sales price of not more than \$50 per item will be exempt from state sales tax. Personal computers and tablets with a sales price of not more than \$1,500 per item will also be exempt.

"Inflation has really hit Pennsylvanians hard," Boscola said. "Everyone is feeling the effects of it, but working families with children, as well as young adults paying their way through college, have been uniquely impacted by rising costs. I believe it is our responsibility as legislators to do something about it."

School supplies, regardless of the student's age, are often a non-negotiable expense heading into the academic year. The average K-5th grader back-to-school list in Pennsylvania contains at least 17 items. Most schools are not equipped to provide these items to their students, leaving families on the hook. The adopted provision makes these items tax-free for shoppers during the holiday, so students show up ready to learn on day one.

"My goal with this legislation is to get relief to these families at the right moment – the first couple of weeks in August are when most students in Pennsylvania are gearing up to head back to school," Boscola added. "To me, this is a commonsense proposal to ease the pressure on working families. I'm glad we were able to get this done for Pennsylvania."

House Bill 1667 subsequently received final passage in the Senate by a vote of 44-6 and now returns to the House for concurrence in Senate amendments.



Senate Unanimously Passes Boscola-Backed Legislation to Modernize Pharmaceutical Licensing

By Senator Lisa Boscola

HARRISBURG, PA – June 24, 2026 – Senator Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton) announced the Pennsylvania Senate today unanimously approved Senate Bill 1206, legislation that will modernize the Commonwealth's pharmaceutical manufacturer licensure process and strengthen Pennsylvania's ability to compete for life sciences jobs and investment.

Under current law, pharmaceutical manufacturers must complete the federal Food and Drug Administration approval process in full before applying for a Pennsylvania state license. A sequencing requirement that leaves the Commonwealth unprepared to act the moment federal approval is granted, allowing competitor states to move faster and capture investment.

SB 1206 eliminates that bottleneck by allowing manufacturers to pursue state licensure concurrently with the FDA process. The bill makes no changes to federal safety standards or approval requirements. It simply ensures Pennsylvania is ready to license a manufacturer the moment federal approval comes through, rather than starting from scratch afterward.

"Pennsylvania has world-class research institutions and a growing life sciences sector, and we should be doing everything we can to keep that investment here and attract more of it," said Senator Boscola. "This bill doesn't cut corners on safety, it cuts unnecessary red tape. While we waited, competitor states were already moving. Today, we're catching up, and we're sending a clear signal that Pennsylvania is open for business."

SB 1206 was prime-sponsored by Senator Tracy Pennycuik (R-Montgomery) and co-sponsored by Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York). The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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