

In Senate floor action:

Definition of Vo-Ag Education – The Senate passed **SB 389**, sponsored by **Sen. Brubaker** (R-Chester, Lancaster), which updates and redefines “vocational agricultural education” to mean that form of vocational education which provides students with the skills and academics needed to enter and advance in careers in the food, agriculture and natural resources sciences. The bill includes a list of such studies, including: production agriculture; agribusiness management and marketing; agricultural research; energy systems; agricultural mechanics and engineering; food science; processing and retailing; banking; agricultural education; forestry; horticulture; landscaping; rural-urban interfacing; animal science; biotechnology; leadership and career development; management; economics and marketing; natural resource management; plant and soil science; power and systems technology; landscape contracting; nursery and floriculture production; retail garden management and other related fields.

State Tax Equalization Board – The Senate approved **SB 704**, sponsored by **Sen. Gordner** (R- Columbia, Dauphin, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder) which increases the number of members on the State Tax Equalization Board from three to five, adding the secretary of education and the secretary of revenue, or their designees. The bill also requires the board to grant a hearing if a school district, other political subdivision or taxpayer states objections in writing to the board.