



## House Bill 2121 – 2018-19 Budget Snapshot

*Total spend of \$32.7 billion, a 1.7 percent increase over the current year, which is below the rate of inflation*

### Maintaining fiscal restraint on government spending

#### General Fund Spend Growth is 1.7 percent – Below Inflation and TABOR

- The national yearly change in the inflation rate is 2.13 percent
- The Independent Fiscal Office, a non-partisan independent fiscal watchdog, places the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) rate for the 2018-19 fiscal year at 2.27 percent.
  - TABOR is a metric to help control government spending and get it in line with inflation and population growth. It is calculated by adding the inflation rate and Pennsylvania's population growth rate, which was 0.14 percent over the last year.
- House Republicans are committed to fiscal restraint so that citizens keep more of their hard-earned money.
- **This budget will also put money into the Rainy Day Fund – for the FIRST time since the recession (fiscal year 2006-07)!**

### Rejecting Governor Wolf's tax increases

- Since taking office in 2015, Gov. Tom Wolf has proposed increasing taxes with each of his budget proposals.
  - His first budget proposal would have increased revenues \$12.5 billion over the last three years.
  - Each Wolf budget proposal has been based on increased taxes.
- House Republicans pushed back and rejected all of the proposed tax increases.
- The 2018-19 budget includes no new revenue, meaning no new taxes and no new fees.

### Fostering a safe learning environment for Pennsylvania students

- A top priority for members, this budget creates a new, \$60 million initiative to ensure Pennsylvania's children are in a safe learning environment.
- This budget creates a block grant program so schools throughout the Commonwealth will have equal access to funding for school safety.
- This funding will be available for things such as school resource officers, metal detectors, school safety assessments and preplanning, and other facility upgrades to ensure a safe learning environment.

## Supporting educational opportunities at all levels

- The 2018-19 budget continues House Republican efforts to support educational opportunities for children throughout Pennsylvania, whether they attend a traditional public school, a public charter school or a private/parochial school.
  - **Increases Basic Education Funding through the Fair Funding Formula** by \$100 million to \$6.095 billion.
  - **Increases Early Childhood Education Funding** (Pre-K Counts and Head Start) by \$25 million to \$251.5 million.
  - **Increases Special Education Funding** by \$15 million to \$1.14 billion.
  - This budget sets a **record high \$12.3 billion for PreK-12** education. In fact, since House Republicans have been in the majority, state education spending for PreK-12 has increased by \$3.4 billion or 38 percent.
- House Republicans realize that students and families should have choice when it comes to education. Locking a child in an education system that is failing them simply is not an option. That is why this budget includes **an additional \$25 million for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit**.
- The 2018-19 budget recognizes the need to give increased support to institutions of higher education so that Pennsylvania can develop and grow its skilled labor force.
  - The budget **includes a 3 percent increase for Pennsylvania’s state-related universities**, and the **State System of Higher Education will receive a 3.3% increase**.
  - Community Colleges and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology will also see an increase of 3 percent.
  - Career and Technical Education is essential to a trained workforce that can respond to the needs of today’s economy. This budget commits an additional \$30 million for career and technical education so that our citizens have the opportunity to prepare for family-sustaining jobs.

## Protecting our communities and our most vulnerable citizens

- This budget will allow the Pennsylvania State Police to train three new cadet classes, which will add an additional 285 troopers to protect communities throughout the state.
- There is an increase of \$5.5 million for nursing homes rates.
- This budget includes money to take care of those with intellectual disabilities, allowing services for an additional 965 people living with intellectual disabilities.
- This budget includes funds to provide evidence-based home visiting services to 800 families affected by the opioid epidemic.
- Emergency Medical Services agencies throughout Pennsylvania have been struggling to do more with less. The budget provides an increase of \$4 million for our EMS agencies.