

BRIEF



Pennsylvania – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

12th Edition – 2025

Summary

The latest edition of the Pennsylvania CPAC Scorecard assesses 10 proposed bills from the State Senate and 10 proposed bills from the State House in the 2025 legislative session. Pennsylvania Republicans earned an average score of **96%**, a 14% increase from the 82% score they earned in 2024. Democrats earned an average score of **11%**, a decrease from 22% in 2024. This swing state has a stark ideological divide amongst its legislators. With a split legislature, many of the bills assessed are currently engrossed, awaiting a final passage vote in the other chamber.

In 2025, Pennsylvania Senators proposed legislation focused on public safety, school choice, and energy development. Proposed bills like **SB 780**, **SB 490** and **SB 471** seek to strengthen public safety and national security. While bills such as **SB 1068**, **SB 311** and **SB 187** support energy development. Pennsylvania's House of Representatives proposed legislation focused on increasing firearm regulation and expanding abortion extremism. Bills such as **HB 1859**, **HB 1099**, and **HB 1593** focused on regulating the possession, sale, purchase and transportation of firearms, though two of them failed in the house. The Pennsylvania legislature reflects the state's political environment, with many conservative and liberal aligned constituents and legislators.

Key Takeaways

Promoting Public Safety and National Security

Bills such as **SB 780**, **SB 490**, and **SB 471** promote public safety and prioritize the well-being of Pennsylvania citizens. These bills propose to bolster security by establishing a formal process and requiring action for unauthorized encampments, prohibiting courts from releasing defendants with unsecured bail who are deemed a public threat, and increasing cooperation with federal agencies against criminal defendants illegally in the United States. These bills emphasize deterring criminal activity through stricter enforcement, while increasing protection of law-abiding citizens.

Proposed Firearm Regulation

Bills like **HB 1859**, **HB 1099**, and **HB 1593** seek to increase or duplicate regulations regarding the purchase, sale, possession, and transportation of firearms. Both **HB 1859**, which proposes extreme risk protection orders and **HB 1099**, a state-level duplication of federal “undetectable” laws creating compliance difficulties, narrowly failed in the House. While **HB 1593**, proposing to eliminate current exemptions from background checks for the sale of long-guns, creating more hurdles for citizens in the process of purchasing firearms generally used for sport and hunting narrowly passed the house, and is awaiting a Senate vote. These votes highlight the ideological differences not only between the chambers but within them as well.

Defending Biological Reality and Female Athletes

SB 9 reflects many Pennsylvanians’ belief that biological women should not be forced to compete in athletic events with biological males. By proposing to mandate public education institutions to label athletics Male, Female, and Co-ed, this bill ensures public policy reflects biological truth, not subjective ideology. By protecting public education institutions from complaints or investigations regarding these categories, this bill not only protects female athletes, but the institutions as well.

Proposed Amendment Facilitating Abortion

HB 1957 proposes an extreme amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution that guarantees a right to abortion at any stage of pregnancy. By placing abortions in the Pennsylvania Constitution, future legislative action to repeal this bill would be difficult, resulting in Pennsylvania becoming a destination for abortions for those residing in states with stricter laws. CPAC believes that abortion is always a human tragedy. Passing the House by a narrow vote of 102-101, this bill is now in the Republican controlled Senate.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

SB 490 – Restricting Bail Options for Individuals Deemed a Public Threat

SB 490 proposes prohibiting courts from releasing defendants with unsecured bail or on their own recognizance if they are considered a public threat. CPAC supports public safety and ensuring accountability in the criminal justice system and supports this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 31, 2025, by a vote of 32-17. This bill has not become a law.

HB 1957 – Amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to Guarantee Reproductive Rights, Including Abortion

HB 1957 proposes an amendment to the Pennsylvania constitution that guarantees a right to personal reproductive liberty, such as abortion. CPAC believes that abortion is always a human tragedy and opposes this bill. The House passed this bill on December 17, 2025, by a vote of 102-101. This bill has not become a law.

HB 1859 – Allowing Courts to Issue Extreme Risk Protection Orders

HB 1859 proposes allowing courts to issue extreme risk protection orders (ERPO), which temporarily prevents individuals from possessing firearms if they are deemed a risk to themselves or others. Courts may force one to relinquish firearms through an ERPO without a hearing or having committed a crime. CPAC supports second amendment rights and opposes this bill. This bill failed in the House on September 20, 2025, by a vote of 101-102. This bill has not become a law.

Trends and Observations

Differences Over Energy Development

A trio of Senate bills – **SB 1068**, **SB 187**, and **SB 311**- highlight Pennsylvania's desire to increase energy efficiency and diversity. Between these bills, propositions include removing Pennsylvania's ability to enforce the CO2 budget trading program regulations, the establishment of an Independent Energy Office to formulate energy efficiency initiatives designed to advance energy resource development, and the restriction of local government to prohibit different types of fuel sources, allowing consumers to choose their energy sources. **HR 271** proposes establishing an advisory committee to conduct a comprehensive study regarding indoor air quality. With government studies already being conducted, this resolution may be redundant and result only in an increase in regulations. Energy is yet another domain in which the Pennsylvania legislature holds divergent views.

School Choice Trends

Two bills demonstrate the majority position for each chamber on school choice. **HB 1500** proposes setting a standardized per-student funding limit and flat tuition rate for cyber charter schools. These budget cuts negatively affect high-performing schools with arbitrary spending limits while limiting options for families not satisfied with public schools. **SB 922** proposes streamlining licensing for private education institutions by allowing applications for licenses before securing a physical facility. This will likely result in an increase in school choice if enacted. Both bills passed their respective chambers with **SB 922** receiving more bi-partisan support. While previous bills like **HB 1500** have failed in the Senate, **SB 922** may play a big role in future school choice if it passes the House.

Increasing Government Efficiency

SB 755 and **SB 187** both display a desire for a more streamlined and effective state government. These bills propose eliminating outdated and inactive state entities and restructuring agency duties while creating new independent offices focused on efficiency, such as an Independent Energy Office. These bills proposed by Pennsylvania lawmakers show an acknowledgement of the need to slash and/or reorganize outdated and underutilized organizations.

Conservative Excellence - House

Marc Anderson - 100%	Charity Grimm Krupa - 100%	Clint Owlett - 100%
Mike Armanini - 100%	100%	Tina Pickett - 100%
Jacob D. Banta - 100%	Joe Hamm - 100%	Brenda Pugh - 90%
Scott Barger - 100%	Doyle Heffley - 100%	Jack Rader - 100%
Jamie Barton - 90%	Rich Irvin - 90%	Kathy Rapp - 90%
Josh Bashline - 90%	R. Lee James - 100%	Brian Rasel - 100%
Kerry Benninghoff - 100%	Tom Jones - 100%	Chad Reichard - 100%
Aaron Bernstine - 100%	Joshua Kail - 100%	Jim Rigby - 90%
Timothy Bonner - 90%	Rob Kauffman - 100%	Brad Roae - 90%
Stephanie Borowicz - 100%	Dallas Kephart - 100%	Leslie Rossi - 100%
Martin Causer - 100%	Joe Kerwin - 90%	David Rowe - 100%
Bud Cook - 100%	Kate Klunk - 90%	Alec J. Ryncavage - 90%
Jill N. Cooper - 90%	Roman Kozak - 90%	Donna Scheuren - 90%
Bryan Cutler - 90%	Thomas H. Kutz - 90%	John A. Schlegel - 90%
Joseph D'Orsie - 100%	Andrew Kuzma - 100%	Louis Schmitt - 100%
Eric Davanzo - 100%	Shelby Labs - 90%	Stephenie Scialabba - 100%
Gary Day - 90%	John Lawrence - 90%	Jeremy Shaffer - 90%
Sheryl Delozier - 90%	Robert Leadbeter - 100%	Brian Smith - 100%
Russ Diamond - 100%	Milou Mackenzie - 90%	Craig Staats - 100%
Torren Ecker - 90%	Zachary Mako - 100%	Perry Stambaugh - 100%
Mindy Fee - 100%	David Maloney - 100%	Joanne Stehr - 90%
Wendy Fink - 100%	Steven Mentzer - 100%	Michael A. Stender - 90%
Jamie L. Flick - 90%	Carl Walker Metzgar - 100%	James Struzzi - 90%
Ann Flood - 100%	Natalie Mihalek - 90%	Jamie Walsh - 100%
Jonathan Fritz - 100%	Brett Miller - 90%	Ryan Warner - 100%
Marla Brown - 90%	Dan Moul - 100%	Dane Watro - 100%
Valerie Gaydos - 90%	Marci Mustello - 90%	Eric Weaknecht - 100%
Mark Gillen - 90%	Eric Nelson - 90%	Parke Wentling - 90%
Barbara Gleim - 100%	Timothy O'Neal - 100%	David Zimmerman - 100%
Keith Greiner - 100%	Jeff Olsommer - 90%	
	Jason Ortity - 100%	

Conservative Excellence - Senate

David Argall - 100%

Lisa Baker - 100%

Camera Bartolotta - 100%

Michele Brooks - 100%

Rosemary Brown - 100%

Jarrett Coleman - 100%

Cris Dush - 100%

Frank A. Farry - 100%

Chris Gebhard - 100%

Scott Hutchinson - 100%

Dawn Keefer - 90%

Wayne Langerholc - 100%

Daniel Laughlin - 100%

Scott Martin - 100%

Doug Mastriano - 100%

Tracy Pennycuick - 100%

Kristin Phillips-Hill - 100%

Joseph Picozzi - 90%

Joe Pittman - 100%

Devlin Robinson - 100%

Greg Rothman - 100%

**Lynda Schlegel Culver -
100%**

Patrick Stefano - 100%

Elder Vogel - 100%

Judy Ward - 100%

Kim Ward - 100%

Gene Yaw - 100%

Conservative Achievement - House

Joe Emrick - 80%

Seth Grove - 89%

Mike Jones - 80%

Abby Major - 80%

Kristin Marcell - 80%

Jesse Topper - 80%

Tim Twardzik - 80%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

Lisa Boscola - 80%