

BILL WATCH FOR APRIL 12, 2019:

Early Voting Coming to Delaware

Delawareans will be allowed to vote prior to Election Day in a few years. The legislature has sent to the governor this week [a bill](#) that will implement in-person early voting in the state beginning in 2022.

Early voting would be open for no less than 10 days prior to the election in at least one location in each county. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 37 states allow any qualified voter to cast a ballot at a designated location prior to Election Day.

The governor supports the bill and has said he plans to sign it into law.



Bill to Help DelTech Heads to Governor

A bill intended to help Delaware Technical Community College (DelTech) deal with its growing facilities' issues is heading to the governor for his consideration. [Senate Substitute 2 for Senate Bill 50](#) provides DelTech with bonding authority and the non-binding promise of an additional \$10 million in state money annually over the next five years to address the college's deferred building maintenance.

In contrast to the original measure, the version of the bill that passed the House Thursday will not impose any new tax burden on Delaware citizens.

More than 33,000 Delawareans took courses at DelTech's four campuses last year. Next year, 85% of the college's facilities will be more than 25-years-old and more than 50% will be over 40-years-old.

In the current Fiscal Year 2019, DelTech collectively receives more than \$91 million in state money: nearly \$81.3 million in the operating budget, and \$10 million in the Bond Bill.

Another \$5.65 million funds the SEED scholarship program, which provides for a free two-year college education to any graduating senior with a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 or greater. SEED scholarships can be used at the University of Delaware or DelTech.

State Rep. Lyndon Yearick, R-Camden-Wyoming, unsuccessfully offered an amendment to the bill that would have required students to provide a modest amount of assistance by adding a fee of "\$10 per credit" to their tuition. The proposal capped a student's annual obligation at \$150 with the proceeds earmarked for the college's Infrastructure Fund.