



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

PSATS Daily COVID-19 News

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Federal HEALS Bill Unveiled in U.S. Senate; Negotiations Begin

The U.S. Senate has unveiled a \$1 trillion coronavirus stimulus package that includes another round of direct payments to Americans, similar to the CARES Act, and \$200 per week in supplemental unemployment insurance. It does not include any new funds for local government.

Negotiations are expected to begin between the Senate and the House over the new package and the \$3 trillion HEROES package, which passed the House a number of weeks ago. The House bill does include funding for local governments and, in addition to providing cash payments to taxpayers, would extend the \$600 per week in supplemental unemployment insurance that recently expired.

Skilled Nursing Facilities Complete Universal Testing

The state Department of Health has announced that all 693 nursing homes in Pennsylvania have completed testing of all residents and staff for COVID-19 at least once, in accordance with the commonwealth's universal testing order. The goal was to rapidly detect asymptomatic residents and staff and manage their care to prevent further transmission.

This step means that all of these facilities are closer to meeting the prerequisites to allow safe visitation, communal dining, and activities in the commonwealth's reopening guidance for nursing homes. [Click here](#) for more information.

Auditor General to Review COVID-19 Data Reporting, Monitoring

Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale is partnering with Delaware, Florida, Mississippi, and Ohio to examine how COVID-19 data has been tracked and reported. The intent is to adopt a standardized approach to state-level reviews despite differences between states in data collection, reporting, and monitoring. The project begins this fall. [Click here](#) for more.

Don't Open Seeds from China, Warns Agriculture Departments

The US and state Department of Agriculture are warning consumers to report unordered and mislabeled seeds shipped from China. The packages, confirmed in all 4 corners of PA, may be labeled as jewelry and may contain plant diseases or invasive plants. Consumers are asked to retain the seeds and packaging. If opened, double bag and seal the seeds. Do not plant them or discard loose seeds. Report the package to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's confidential Antismuggling Hotline, 800-877-3835 or [email SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov). The U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide further instructions.