



WEEK IN REVIEW

April 25, 2014

News for the Week of April 14 & 21

PSATS 92nd Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show a Success!

Grassroots Reception: Thank you for making the Annual PSATS Grassroots Reception a success! We had an excellent turnout of grassroots members and a handful of legislators. House Local Government Committee Chair Representative Kate Harper was on hand to present a resolution from the House declaring it Local Government Week and thanking township officials for all of their hard work. Thank you for attending the reception and we look forward to seeing even more of your smiling faces next year!

Conference highlights: Thank you to everyone who helped make the 92nd Annual PSATS Educational Conference and Trade Show a success! Thousands of township officials heard from state officials, including Governor Tom Corbett, Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Chris Abruzzo, and Department of Agriculture Secretary George Geig. Township officials also heard from The Honorable Marjorie Rendell, Judge U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Other highlights included a Right-to-Know Law forum and keynote speaker Colonel Mark Tillman, the nation's 12th presidential pilot.

For complete conference coverage, look for the June 2014 issue of the *Pennsylvania Township News!*

Resolutions approved: During the business portion of the conference, PSATS members passed 25 resolutions. PSATS staff will now notify legislators, the administration and other key officials of the Association's policy positions. [Click here](#) to view a copy of the adopted resolutions. *Note: You will need your PSATS username and password to view this page.*

Federal Judge Allows Seismic Testing

Recently, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction against Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County after the township halted negotiations with a company that wanted to perform seismic testing on public roads. In issuing the injunction, the federal judge ruled that the township did not have the authority to interfere with the seismic testing because it did not have an ordinance regulating seismic testing activity and that the township had essentially engaged in "regulation by inaction" by terminating negotiations with the company. Townships with questions regarding their ability to reasonably regulate seismic testing should contact their township solicitor.

[Click here](#) for more from the Pittsburgh Tribune Review.

Legislative News

PennDOT Secretary Barry Schoch Announces Bridge Projects, Possible Detours

State Department of Transportation Secretary Barry Schoch recently asked PSATS to share information with our members regarding upcoming bridge projects under PennDOT's public-private partnership program that may be taking place in your area. Secretary Schoch indicated that PennDOT will begin a new initiative to address the nearly 4,500 structurally deficient state bridges as a result of the recently enacted public-private partnership tool, which will enable them to replace hundreds of these bridges more quickly, save money, and minimize the impact on the traveling public. Due to the high costs associated with creating a temporary bridge, PennDOT is exploring options to increase the number of bridges being replaced by allowing detours and may look to use local roads as detours. Schoch has committed to assessing the condition of local roads prior to the detour and making the necessary improvements to restoring the local roads to the same condition at no cost to the municipality once the detour is removed. Township officials may be contacted by PennDOT in the near future about the possible use of their roads for detours for the replacement of state bridges.

PSATs is encouraging townships to work with the department in their evaluation of a particular road that is being considered as a detour route to be sure that they are satisfied with the evaluation of that road, and what potential work will be needed if the road is chosen. For more information on this program please contact your PennDOT municipal services representative.

Liquor Privatization Debate to Resume

According to the Harrisburg Patriot News, when legislators return to Harrisburg next week, the Senate is expected to consider a bill that would allow grocery and convenience stores to sell limited amounts of beer and wine. "Our goal is to give consumers what they want, better access and selection," said Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson. The conversation, he added, is "clearly teed up for next week." To get to Governor Tom Corbett's desk, privatization advocates in the House would have to back away from the bill they passed last year to phase out the state stores and embrace a proposal that deals with the already privatized beer market. [Click here](#) to read more from the Patriot News.

More News From Around The State

Former State Senator Musto Has Passed Away

Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of former State Senator **Raphael "Ray" Musto** who passed away Thursday after battling liver disease and cancer. Senator Musto was first elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1971, before a brief stint in Congress and a 28 year run in the Pennsylvania State Senate. Musto was 85. [Click here](#) to read more from the Morning Call.

Unemployment Drops

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate is at 6 percent, which is the lowest it has been since October of 2008. That is down from 6.2 percent and includes 12,000 more people entering the workforce.

Federal News

Content contributed by the National Association of Towns & Townships (NATAT).

FEMA National Day of Action

FEMA is inviting communities across the nation to register their participation in America's PrepareAthon!, a nationwide campaign to improve the nation's resilience. This National Day of Action takes place on April 30, 2014. By registering your participation in the first National Day of Action, you help build a stronger and more resilient nation. Learn your risks and what to do before a tornado, wildfire, flood, or hurricane strikes your community. [Click here](#) for more information.

**** Looking for this week's issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin? [Click here](#).****

Capitol Calendar

Legislative Committee Meetings for the Weeks of April 28:

MONDAY - 4/28/14

Senate State Government

10:30 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Public hearing to discuss gift ban legislation.

House Human Services

11:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

Informational meeting on Pennsylvanians who lack health insurance coverage.

House Game and Fisheries

12:00 p.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

To consider: [HB 2143](#) Haluska, Amends Titles 30 & 75 re PFBC Funds; [HB 2169](#) Gabler, Amends Title 34 re elk hunting licenses; [HB 2178](#) Moul, Amends Title 34 re enforcement officers.

TUESDAY - 4/29/14

House Commerce

9:00 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

To consider: [HB 2167](#) Swanger, Amends Breach of Info Act re notification; [HB 2009](#) Culver, Amends Title 17 re Credit Union Code.

House Consumer Affairs

9:00 a.m., Room 39, East Wing

To consider: HB 2030 Snyder, Act re Coal Fired Electric Generation Deactivation Commission; HB 2041 Matzie, Act re Protecting Commonwealth Data; HB 1365 Godshall, Amends Title 53 re transfer of facilities; HB 1852 Stephens, Act re using technology to help crime victims; HB 1857 Killion, Amends Title 66 re vanpool industry deregulation; HB 2104 Godshall, Amends Title 66 re electric consumer protection.

Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs

9:00 a.m., Room 461 Main Capitol

To consider the nomination of James Van Blarcom to the Milk Marketing Board.

House Children and Youth

9:30 a.m., Room B31 Main Capitol

Public hearing on: SB 27 Mensch, Amends Title 23 re exchange of information.

Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure

9:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing

Public hearing to discuss electric reliability.

House Labor and Industry

10:00 a.m., Room 39, East Wing

To consider: HB 2066 Benninghoff, Amends Wage Payment & Collection Law re scope; HB 2079 Smith, Amends PA Construction Code re applicability.

Senate Judiciary

10:30 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Public hearing on: SB 1215 White, Amends Titles 16 & 42 re clerk/prothonotary.

WEDNESDAY - 4/30/14

House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness

9:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

To consider: HR 649 Farry, Resolution re Google Earth & Military Installations; SB 403 Hutchinson, Amends Title 51 re military physicians; SB 707 Solobay, Amends Title 35 re relief association funds; SB 923 Baker, Amends Title 51 re military family assistance; SB 1115 Robbins, Amends Title 51 re educational assistance.

House Local Government

9:15 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

Public hearing on: HB 161 Moul, Amends Title 53 re mobile homes/trailers.

House Professional Licensure

9:30 a.m., Room B31 Main Capitol

Public hearing on: HB 1449 Scavello, Act re mental health first aid USA train program.

THURSDAY - 5/1/14

House Democratic Policy Committee

10:00 a.m., Room 418 Main Capitol

Public hearing on internet gaming.

House Republican Policy Committee

10:00 a.m., YMCA of Lebanon, 201 North 7th Street, Lebanon

Public hearing to explore recent developments relating to the services that the Commonwealth and county governments provide to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. The hearing will also explore future paths for continued improvements.

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

10:00 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg

To consider the following regulations: 2938 PA Public Utility Commission #57-288: Licensing Requirements for Natural Gas Suppliers; 2992 Philadelphia Parking Authority #126-3: Impoundment of Vehicles and Equipment; 2930 Environmental Quality Board #7-469: Flexible Packaging Printing Presses, Offset Lithographic Printing Presses and Letterpress Printing Presses, Adhesives, Sealants, Primers and Solvents; 3022 Environmental Quality Board #7-438: Oil and Gas Well Fee Amendments; 3019 Dept. of Public Welfare #14-535: Supplemental Ventilator Care Payment for Medical Assistance Nursing Facilities.

Public Employee Retirement Commission

10:00 a.m., Room 461 Main Capitol

Regular meeting.

2014 Session Days for the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

The General Assembly is scheduled for session on the following days:

- **April:** 28, 29, 30
- **May:** 5, 6, 7
- **June:** 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Content contributed by Pennsylvania Legislative Services.

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