

Malady & Wooten, LLP

Legislative Report

January 17, 2014

For questions, contact:

Drew Lyons

Phone: 717.236.9600

Email: dlyons@malady-wooten.com



Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session Schedule:

2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

January 27, 28, 29

February 3, 4, 5

March 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 31

April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 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

2013 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

January 27, 28, 29

February 3, 4, 5

March 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 31

April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 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

PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Notices

[Public hearing](#)

2014-2015 BUDGET HEARINGS

Senate Appropriations

TUESDAY - 2/18/14

3:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Budget Hearing - Department of Environmental Protection

House Appropriations

WEDNESDAY - 2/19/14

1:00 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Budget Hearing - Department of Environmental Protection

House Appropriations

WEDNESDAY - 2/19/14

2:30 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Budget Hearing - Department of Community & Economic Development

Senate Appropriations

MONDAY - 2/24/14

1:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Budget Hearing - Department of Community & Economic Development

DEP UNVEILS SUSQUEHANNA RIVER STUDY VIDEO

Harrisburg – DEP today announced the launch of an all-new educational video about the ongoing water quality study on the Susquehanna River.

“This video illustrates the complexity and rigorous nature of a technical and time-consuming scientific study,” DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo said. “With a renewed focus on public education, resources like this video are essential to teach Pennsylvanians about this important issue.”

Since beginning the study in 2012, DEP scientists and staff, in cooperation with other federal and state agency personnel, are conducting an analysis of the Susquehanna River’s water quality, water flow, sediment, pesticide and hormone levels, invertebrates and fish tissue.

The investigation was broadened in 2013 to include tributaries to the Susquehanna River and its West Branch, as well as the Juniata River. The study was also expanded to explore the cause of a number of issues affecting smallmouth bass in certain areas of the river.

In 2012, DEP staff spent 187 cumulative work days sampling on the river. In 2013, that number grew to 927 cumulative staff days. There were more than 2,600 water quality samples collected on the Susquehanna River by DEP staff in 2013.

Samples are being studied and analyzed by DEP’s Bureau of Laboratories, the U.S. Geological Survey and Central Michigan University.

DEP continues to work in partnership with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat and the Susquehanna River Basin commissions on portions of the study.

DEP staff is currently examining the samples collected in 2013 before the start of the 2014 sampling season. This summer marks the third year of the study, and a sampling plan is being developed in advance of the summer sampling season. Sampling efforts on the Susquehanna River will remain ample

until DEP has collected enough data to draw conclusions about the overall health of the river and what, if any, action is needed.

DEP worked with Commonwealth Media Services to produce this video. It is the second in a new series of educational videos DEP is developing as part of its Public Participation and Education Initiative launched last fall.

The new video is available on the department's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/pennsylvaniadep.

For more information visit www.dep.state.pa.us and click the "Susquehanna River Study Update" button.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Senate Democratic Policy Committee

WEDNESDAY - 1/22/14

10:00 a.m., Bedford Springs Resort, 2138 U.S. 220 Business, Bedford

Roundtable discussion on rural economic development and tourism

House Finance (PUBLIC HEARING)

THURSDAY - 1/23/14

10:00 a.m., Independent Seaport Museum, 211 South Columbus Boulevard & Walnut Street, Philadelphia

Public hearing on:

HB 1461 Killion, Thomas Amends the Tax Reform Code providing for a waterfront development tax credit.

House Environmental Resources and Energy (PUBLIC HEARING)

WEDNESDAY - 1/29/14

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

Public hearing on:

HB 1565 Hahn, Marcia Amends the Clean Streams Law further providing for potential pollution.

BILL REPORT

ATTACHED TO THE REPORT

STATE NEWS

PA FISCAL CONDITION LAGS BEHIND MOST STATES

Pennsylvania has a poorer cash solvency than all but three U.S. states, according to a new study. The George Mason University survey, based on fiscal 2012, examines states' abilities to meet their financial obligations in the face of state budget challenges that have stretched beyond the national economic recession.

MCCORD RAISES \$6.6 MILLION FOR GOVERNOR'S RACE

State Treasurer Rob McCord's quest to become Pennsylvania's next governor has gotten off to a healthy financial start. His campaign — Rob McCord for Governor — announced it raised \$6.6 million last year, and said it has \$6 million to spend against the seven other Democrats also seeking to win the May primary to take on Republican Gov. Tom Corbett in November.

PA STANDS TO LOSE MILLIONS IN TOBACCO MONEY

The partnership forged in the landmark 1998 settlement between Big Tobacco and the states is unraveling in Pennsylvania, threatening programs that underwrite home care for the elderly, health insurance for working disabled people, health research and already crippled anti-smoking efforts. A recent ruling by a panel of arbitrators could wipe out three-quarters of the roughly \$320 million Pennsylvania expects to receive from tobacco companies in April, court records show.

IN THE NEWS

- 01-13-2014 **Property tax elimination tops Pocono Realtor group's agenda**
Nicole Murray, who became president of the Pocono Mountains Association of Realtors on Jan. 1, realizes maintaining a database and supporting real estate sales is only a part of the job. These days, a big part of her job, she said, is keeping her 700 associate... - [Pocono Record](#)
- 01-13-2014 **To keep Pa. recreation safe, lawmakers should support updates to old environmental law: Fred Brown**
By Fred Brown Pennsylvania's Recreational Use of Land and Water Act was passed in 1966 and for the last 47 years has provided "landowners" a limitation on liability if they open their "land" for recreational use without charge. The Recreational Use of Land and Water Act of 1966 repealed and replaced a... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-13-2014 **Will Millcreek golf course ever reopen?**
A Millcreek Township-owned golf course that opened in 2002 was celebrated for converting a former hazardous waste dump into a place where people could learn the game. But the Millcreek Golf and Learning Center, 3100 W. 17th St., has been closed since 2011 and there's no guarantee it will ever reopen as a golf... - [Erie Times-News](#)

WEEK IN REVIEW

- 01-17-2014 **Pa. sees gaming revenue decrease**
Pennsylvania's streak of winning hands, at least in terms of gambling revenue, has come to an end. For the first time since the first racetrack casino opened in the state in 2006, total gambling revenue dropped last year, according to numbers released Thursday by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-17-2014 **Judge spikes photo ID requirement for Pa. voters**
Harrisburg >> A state judge has struck down the law requiring Pennsylvania's voters to show photo identification at the polls... - [AP](#)
- 01-16-2014 **Comcast to build second, taller Phila. skyscraper**
Six years after Comcast Corp. moved into the city's tallest building, the cable-TV and Internet giant expects to break ground this summer on an even taller, more dazzling, \$1.2 billion tower. The 1,121-foot-tall high-rise will be built on Arch Street between 18th and... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-16-2014 **New chairman tapped for Pa. state pension fund**
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Gov. Tom Corbett is naming the president of a Philadelphia investment advisory group to become the new chairman of Pennsylvania's \$26.5 billion state employee pension system... - [AP](#)
- 01-15-2014 **Liquor privatization 'working draft' planned for Pennsylvania**
HARRISBURG — Closed-door talks on liquor privatization continued on Tuesday among GOP legislative leaders and the lieutenant governor. The next step is expected to be consideration of a "working draft" of legislation, perhaps by week's end. But officials cautioned there's no deal — not even a framework of an... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

- 01-15-2014 **Phila. Fed Boss Says US Economy Is In Long-Term Recovery**
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Hundreds of people heard a generally upbeat account of today's economy from the head of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Today at the Union League, regional Fed president and CEO Charles Plosser told LaSalle University's 13th annual Economic Outlook Forum that he is... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 01-14-2014 **2014: Pennsylvania election year will excite**
Just two weeks into the new year, many pundits are already calling Tom Corbett the most unpopular governor up for reelection. Sensing weakness, Democrats – and even one Republican -- having been lining up to challenge him. In addition, all 18 seats in Pennsylvania's United States congressional... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-14-2014 **Bill would require school districts to post financial information online**
Pennsylvania residents may soon be able to track public school system funding and spending by logging onto a computer. State representatives voted 119-81 Monday on HB1411 — a bill that if signed into law would require the Pennsylvania Department of Education to post annual financial statements and adopted budgets of every... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 01-13-2014 **Pennsylvania Legislature facing several challenges**
HARRISBURG -- With a transportation funding law on the books, Pennsylvania lawmakers return to work today to an agenda that includes the other high-profile issues -- overhaul of liquor sales and pensions -- that ensnared budget talks in June. The topics have been priorities of Gov. Tom Corbett, and Republican... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-13-2014 **Pension reform to take center stage in the Pa. Legislature this spring, leaders say**
Pension reform has been an issue that has been simmering on the Legislature's stove for quite a while. Whether it reaches the boiling point in the upcoming months remains to be seen. The House and Senate return to Harrisburg today, looking for a pre-election encore to their fall session success of passing a \$2.4 billion... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)