

Malady & Wooten, LLP

Legislative Report

January 31, 2014

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Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session Schedule:

2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

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

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

UPCOMING REGULATIONS

Executive Order 1996-1 requires all agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor to submit for publication an agenda of regulations under development or consideration. Subsequent agendas will be published on the first Saturdays in February and July.

The agendas are compiled to provide members of the regulated community advanced notice of regulatory activity. It is the intention of the Administration that these agendas will serve to increase public participation in the regulatory process.

Agency contacts should be contacted for more information regarding the regulation and the procedure for submitting comments.

This Agenda represents the Administration's present intentions regarding future regulations. The nature and complexity of an individual regulation obviously will determine whether and when any particular regulation listed below (as well as any considered subsequent to publication of this Agenda) is published.

AGRICULTURE

Fertilizer Regulations December 2014, This regulation will replace 7 Pa. Code Chapter 73 and
7 Pa. Code Chapter 73 as proposed. implement provisions of 3 Pa.C.S. §§ 6701—6725 (Fertilizer Act).

Soil and Plant December 2014, This regulation will replace 7 Pa. Code Chapter 130a and
Amendment as proposed. implement provisions of 3 Pa.C.S. §§ 6901—6921 (Soil and
Regulations Plant Amendment Act).
7 Pa. Code Chapter
130a

Pesticide June 2014, as This regulation will amend 7 Pa. Code Chapter 128 to allow the
Regulations proposed. Department to collect and pass on any additional service fees charged by a
7 Pa. Code contracted agency or vendor that provides testing services.
Chapter 128

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

COSPONSOR MEMOS

Sen. Vogel & Schwank

- [Clean and Green - agriculture related enterprises](#)

Rep. Grove

- [Consistent Environment Regulations Rules and Regulations](#)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs

TUESDAY - 2/4/14

Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Room

To consider:

SB 1149 Brubaker, Michael Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), in fertilizer, further providing for labels & labeling & for disposition of funds; and providing for fertilizer for use on turf.

House Tourism and Recreational Development (INFORMATIONAL)

WEDNESDAY - 2/5/14

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

Informational meeting on DCED's marketing program for 2014

COMMITTEE NEWS

Senate Labor and Industry Committee

01/28/14, 1:50 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

HB 403 Grove, Seth - (PN 1389) Amends the Unemployment Compensation Law increasing penalties for false statements or representations to obtain or increase compensation. The legislation also increases penalties for employers and prohibits inmates from receiving unemployment compensation benefits. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 413, 1124) - The bill was **reported as amended** with Sen. Sean Wiley (D-Erie) voting "No".

A05107 by Gordner, removes language that could limit the department's effort to identify incarcerated individuals who are incarcerated who are ineligible for compensation; expands the compensation chart to provide those who qualify for the maximum weekly benefit are not determined to be ineligible for compensation based on high quarter earnings; and removes language previously contained in Act 75 of 2013. The amendment was **adopted** with Sen. Mike Folmer (R-Lebanon) and Sen. Wiley voting "No".

Minority Chairman Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia) commented, "When we did Act 60 we found that seasonal workers are not covered." She argued the amendment only covers about 2,900 individuals and she wanted to know what the state is going to do with the other individuals who are adversely affected by the legislation. Chairman Tartaglione described the amendment as "a small fix." Chairman Gordner responded that the problem was the Commonwealth owed \$300-plus billion to the UC System and the state had to make sure they had a system in place for the unemployed workers in Pennsylvania. He argued that because of Act 60 the system will become solvent by 2019 and "will never become insolvent again". Chairman Gordner argued that the unemployment compensation system was not set up to pay year after year to cyclical, seasonal workers and it was set up to help workers between jobs. He told the committee, "If we were to reverse what we put in Act 60, we would again go back to insolvency." Chairman Gordner added, "We can't do that to our workers and our employers."

According to Chairman Tartaglione, the state is giving unemployment payments to individuals who are in a halfway house from jail. Chairman Gordner said he has no problem with fixing that issue. He added that the issue of people already incarcerated receiving benefits has already been addressed. Chairman Tartaglione commented that "everyone needs to get their fair share." Chairman Gordner responded, "What we are going to do today is what is possible to help some folks." He noted the amendment has the support of the Corbett Administration.

Sen. Wiley told the committee, "The unintended consequences of Act 60 have a significant impact on the constituents I serve." He added, "The seasonal employment situation is significant to say the least." Sen. Wiley argued that there are people with a specific skill set that work to that skill set and find it difficult finding employment in their off-season. He went on to argue for the need to do more work on the legislation.

Sen. John Blake (D-Lackawanna) said he would support the amendment and report the bill to move the legislative process forward. He added that he shares Sen. Wiley's concerns and would support measures to address those concerns.

House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee

1/29/14, 9:00 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

HB 1565 Hahn, Marcia - (PN 2114) Amends the Clean Streams Law further providing for potential pollution by adding that the use or installation of riparian buffers and riparian forest buffers shall not be required under this section. Riparian buffers and riparian forest buffers may be used as a choice among best management practices, design standards and alternatives to minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation and to protect, maintain, reclaim and restore water quality and for existing and designated uses. Effective in 60 days.

Rep. Hahn thanked the chairmen for holding a hearing on her legislation. She explained Chapter 102 regulations essentially prohibit people from conducting development activities within 150 feet of a stream, pond, lake, or reservoir when a project is located in an exceptional value watershed. She called the current law "one size fits all" and said the buffer is necessary but is not practical or efficient. Rep. Hahn said the bill would clarify the current law to say riparian buffers and riparian forest buffers are one of several choices among best standard practices to be utilized during land removal processes. She explained the bill would protect land resources while providing options for developers.

Chairman Vitali said he understands the value of exceptional value and high quality streams and the need for riparian buffers. He asked if there is a provision in the current law that would give DEP the discretion to work around buffer zones. Rep. Hahn said there are currently exceptions but her legislation will provide other options.

Chairman Vitali asked why the bill makes buffer zones optional instead of setting out extraordinary circumstance criteria. Rep. Hahn said there are certain options that will continue to change. Jonathan Lutz, Executive Director of the committee said the one size fits all approach can be problematic because including some exemptions will probably leave some out. Rep. Hahn explained a homeowner in her district wanted to build on property that was over one acre and had to build their house right next to the road because the property contained wetlands.

Harry Campbell, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, testified on the importance of forests alongside the Commonwealths streams, which he says are protected by the riparian forest buffer requirement for land developments. "Streamside forests are the natural condition of Pennsylvania streams and are amongst the most cost-effective water quality tools we have," stated Campbell. He said rivers and streams with outstanding water quality are designated either High Quality (HQ) or Exceptional Value (EV); only about 0.8 percent of streams are considered impaired by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and require restoration of a forested riparian buffer under current regulations. He highlighted the importance

of streamside forests and said riparian buffers provide the most effective and consistent removal of nitrogen and pollution from runoff. "The water quality benefits of forested riparian buffers are also well documented; however, what is often not immediately apparent to decision makers is that buffers offer numerous economical and societal benefits as well," explained Campbell. He said streamside forests provide a stormwater function, enhance the habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, and reduce the costs of treating drinking water. Campbell then discussed the ways streamside forests are one of the most cost-effective practices currently documented. Campbell then said the proposed changes to Chapter 102 will make Pennsylvania's requirements to meet the pollution load reductions outlined in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load and the Commonwealth's associated Watershed Implementation Plans more difficult and more costly to achieve.

Chairman Vitali asked what criteria are in place for DEP to modify the 150 foot buffer requirements. Campbell said a number of exemptions and waivers in place. Chairman Vitali then asked if floods are an issue if buffer zones are removed. Campbell said they would be an issue in some areas.

Rep. Evankovich asked if the figures in Campbell's testimony also referred to non-forested riparian buffers. Campbell said his written testimony distinguishes between forested buffers and non-forested buffers; he said forested buffer zones are more effective but a buffer of any sort is better than no buffer at all.

Rep. Barbin said he was worried Northeastern Pennsylvania would be unable to develop at all because there are so many protected waterways there. He asked if any other states with a 150 foot buffer are considering similar legislation. Campbell said many of the Mid-Atlantic States have rules similar to those in Pennsylvania; New Jersey has a buffer zone law of up to 300 feet. Rep. Barbin said he is worried the current law takes away local control and ends up creating an unequal system.

Rep. McCarter asked if current homeowners are exempt from the provision in question. Campbell said current homeowners are exempt from the rule unless they are planning a project larger than one acre.

Rep. Carroll said the representatives from Northeastern Pennsylvania are worried about the buffer; he said he believes the law should allow for flexibility because the people who are affected by the rule are the ones who have been caring for the exceptional quality streams.

Rep. Pyle asked if property owners have to plan 150 feet of forest between their land development projects and bodies of water. Campbell said no, only if the stream is impaired will a property owner have to develop 150 feet away from the water.

Kelly Heffner, Deputy Secretary for Water Programs, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, explained the background of the Commonwealth's riparian buffer requirements and documented some benefits of utilization of the buffers. "Riparian buffers, including riparian forest buffers can be a cost effective means of limiting pollution associated with stormwater runoff," stated Heffner. "The costs of engineered stormwater best management practices are more expensive, incur annual maintenance costs, and typically need to be replaced every 20 to 30 years." She listed the exemptions to the buffer requirements and six waiver provisions that may be secured by individuals seeking to develop on land in Pennsylvania. Heffner said since November 19, 2010, a total of 155 permits were issued or applied for that were impacted by the buffer requirements. Heffner explained 59 of the 155 projects did not need to apply for buffer waivers because they qualified for one of the nine exemptions. She shared a graph showing how the permits were spread uniformly between the eastern and western areas of the Commonwealth. "The Commonwealth has an obligation to maintain existing and designated water quality uses; however, there are several ways to adhere to this obligation, one of which is the use of riparian buffers and riparian forested buffers," concluded Heffner. "The department should be authorized, on a case by case basis, to require riparian buffers or riparian forested buffers if the department determines that doing so is necessary to protect water quality."

Chairman Vitali asked Heffner to explain the difference between exemptions and waivers. Heffner said exemptions can be determined while an application or site plan is being prepared; waivers require detailed submissions to DEP to evaluate.

Chairman Vitali asked how many waivers and exemptions have been granted recently. Heffner said 155 requests were sent and 75 of them received waivers. Heffner explained waivers are granted with regularity and her department will meet with developers before they apply for waivers to help them plan.

Rep. Ross asked how many waiver applications were turned down. Heffner said she does not have the figures in front of her but she believes no applications were turned down.

Rep. Evankovich asked why no applications were denied. Heffner said her staff worked with the developers to make sure they have an approvable project. Rep. Evankovich said he is worried no one gets denied because those who would have been denied had to change their plans in the pre-application meetings with DEP.

Rep. Carroll asked Heffner how her department is supportive of the legislation even though she said no one is rejected who submits a waiver application. Heffner said DEP runs into implementation challenges and would appreciate increasing flexibility. Rep. Carroll said he would like the process to be streamlined and flexible so development can continue through the next administration.

Rep. Santarsiero said he would like to see a better set of facts; he asked for an analysis of how much of an impact the regulations are having on development. Heffner said the analysis is twofold and said she would collect the information and send it back to the committee.

Rep. Barbin asked Heffner to also provide a map of the statewide stormwater permits.

Chairman Vitali asked if DEP supports the legislation as written or with amendments that will be offered to preserve the criteria to protect riparian buffers. Heffner said DEP representatives would be happy to discuss the bill with legislators. Chairman Vitali said he is concerned there are people who are experts who have opinions on this issue that differ with the opinions from the top layer of government who are politically and policy driven.

Marel A. Raub, Pennsylvania Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission, presented most of the information in the submitted testimony. She explained Pennsylvania's involvement in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in the watershed. She explained the program is administered by the US Department of Agriculture and seeks to compensate farmers who establish and maintain riparian forests for a period of ten to fifteen years. She explained it is labor and resource-intensive to restore buffers so it is wise public policy to maintain existing buffers as much as possible. Raub stated the Commonwealth is falling short of its Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) goal of 158,813 acres by 2025. She outlined the consequences set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) if Pennsylvania does not make progress on schedule. "Intact functional riparian buffers are an important and cost-effective practice that will help us meet and maintain our obligations for downstream water quality, reducing risk to the Commonwealth from federal backstop measures," said Raub. "Regulatory protection of these sensitive areas is meaningful and is complimentary to state and federal efforts to restore buffers across the region."

Ann Swanson, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission, discussed the incredible importance of buffers for the protection of water quality, the environment, and quality of life. She explained her organization advises the General Assemblies of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia on matters of watershed-wide concern. Swanson explained the commission also worked with the United States Congress on issues that are of importance to the watershed. She said riparian buffers are "no ordinary best management process, they are more important features of our landscape." Swanson then explained the importance of the regulatory Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay then outlined what Virginia and Maryland are doing to meet TMDL requirements.

Chairman Vitali asked if waivers and exemptions give adequate flexibility to DEP to protect water resources. Raub said the exemptions seem fine and that specific issues could be fixed by adding more flexibility to the law. Swanson said Pennsylvania has some healthy areas, but the legislature must keep the Commonwealth's buffer program strong.

Rep. Carroll said there are four watersheds in Pennsylvania; he asked if they all have unique needs. Swanson said the watersheds are all ecologically different but buffers are important to the streams in each system. Rep. Carroll pointed out the representatives from Northeast Pennsylvania are more concerned with the Delaware watershed. Swanson responded by saying she is articulate on the Chesapeake Bay, but she also knows a lot about the relationship between land and water in every watershed.

Rep. Ross asked if the buffer zones are shrunk or removed the TMDL will have to be made up in another area through agriculture or sewage treatment facilities. Swanson said yes, and at a greater expense.

Rep. Ross said he has a constituent who was prevented from developing his property in the Poconos because the sewage treatment facility simple could not handle additional hookups; he explained taking land out of the buffer system might restrict development by preventing access to sewage treatment. Swanson agreed, saying increasing TMDL in one area will require a decrease in another area.

Rep. McCarter asked if reducing buffer zones would increase the flood plain and therefore impact the price of flood insurance. Swanson said she does not have the data but intuitively she said that is a very valid point. Rep. McCarter said perhaps the committee should talk about increasing the size of the buffer zone instead of decreasing them. He said flexibility is needed but buffer zones are necessary.

Joe Harcum, President, Duck Harbor Group, said he feels passionately that buffer zones should not be a requirement. He said Wayne County, where he resides, contains property where 93 percent of the land is not developable because of the buffer. Harcum explained the land must be maintained in perpetuity forever and that homeowners pay for the buffers to be inspected and maintenance to be done. "There are 35 best management practices approved by the DEP," pointed out Harcum. "We support the bill because it will give flexibility and creativity and license for people to do what needs to be done while ensuring water quality because other DEP mandates still have to be followed."

Brian Oran, CF Environmental Consultants, said the good qualities and values currently related to buffer zones are going to be protected because it is currently illegal to build in wetlands or floodways. He said most riparian buffer zones are currently in either of those areas and will not be affected by the bill. Oran said a fact based scientific approach is the only way to determine which public policy will be best for developers and the environment.

Tom Reilly, Reilly Associates, PA Builders Association, explained there are many other options besides riparian buffer zones that will protect the environment. He said a small pond dug by a farmer many years ago requires the same 150 foot buffer as a large waterway or body of water. Reilly said customizing and tailoring how the buffer zones are used on sites can protect waterways while fitting the land in a more reasonable way. He called for a holistic and flexible approach to creating a plan that keeps the water clean without impeding economic competition.

Chairman Vitali asked if there are any tweaks that could be made to the waiver program to give developers more flexibility. Reilly said due to the diversity of circumstances it is hard to prescribe a plan that will work in every case. He said he also does not believe the past two years have provided an adequate test of the waiver application process due to the instability of the housing market. Oran said he believes adding exceptions to the current law is a bad approach. He called for the legislature to put onus on the person proposing a project to defend their approach instead of forcing DEP to defend their decision in court.

Rep. Ross said any small effect on a small stream can be amplified and cumulating. He asked the panel to provide the committee with a comparable mechanical engineered alternative that would take out similar amounts of pollution as the 150 foot buffer zone.

Rep. Santarsiero asked the Chairman Miller to hold another hearing on the bill once the committee has the information they asked for from the testifiers today. He said the information they need is vital to determine the scope of the alleged problem and make sure the legislation narrowly answers that problem.

Chairman Miller said he would look into holding another hearing. He thanked the testifiers for the information they provided.

BILL REPORT

ATTACHED TO THE REPORT

STATE NEWS

COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENTS JUMP IN VALUE

Penn State University has taken some image hits lately, but the school's endowment seems to have had a banner year. The state's flagship public university saw the market value of its endowment soar by 66 percent in fiscal year 2013 to just under \$3 billion, according to a newly released study of hundreds of U.S. college and university endowments. The University of Pittsburgh, whose endowment grew in value by 13.7 percent, continues to have the city's largest university endowment. Its worth stood at \$2,975,896,000 up from \$2,618,436,000 the previous year, placing it 26th largest in the study.

PA JOBLESS RATE DROPS BELOW SEVEN PERCENT

The state's unemployment rate in December dropped below 7 percent for the first time in nearly five years, a state labor market report showed, but the seemingly positive result masked disappointing signs. The jobless rate fell because many individuals stopped looking for work and were not counted as unemployed. The last time the rate was below 7 percent was January 2009, when it was 6.8 percent.

GAMBLING EXPANSION TO BE CONSIDERED BY SENATE

With top state lawmakers and Gov. Corbett seeking ways to plug a projected budget deficit, they are considering expanding lottery gambling and, possibly, legalizing online gambling.

IN THE NEWS

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: New Bay Agreement holds parties accountable to Blueprint, but must address toxic contamination

ANNAPOLIS, MD. – Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) Vice President Kim Coble issued this statement regarding a proposed new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which was released today for public comment by the Chesapeake Bay Program:

"There are a number of elements to celebrate in this new draft Agreement. I am happy to see that the draft holds states accountable to the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint, the plan to finish the job of restoring the Bay. However, the draft contains no specific goals to reduce toxic contamination. That is shortsighted.

"CBF is shocked that the new draft Agreement contains no specific goals to reduce toxic contamination. Twenty years ago the Executive Council debated, then agreed to set a goal of eliminating toxic impacts in the Bay. This draft agreement moves us backward not forward with regard to stopping toxic pollution.

"We are also shocked that this draft Agreement fails to address one of the most critical environmental challenges to our planet – global climate change. How could this be possible in 2014?"

"CBF acknowledges the hard work and commitment that has led to progress in restoring the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams during the past 30 years. There is much about which everyone should feel proud, but there is still more work to do. CBF remains an active and enthusiastic partner to ensure progress continues and the goal of a clean Bay is achieved. We will work steadfastly to ensure the new Bay Agreement enhances and accelerates Bay restoration."

- 01-31-2014 **Environmentalists slam new bay pact**
Environmentalists are slamming a new draft Chesapeake Bay restoration agreement for failing to address toxic pollution or even mention climate change as a complicating factor in the three-decade effort to revive the ailing estuary. The Chesapeake Bay Program, a "partnership" of the Environmental Protection... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 01-31-2014 **County, WCVB open talks on tourism**
After a year of being at odds, the two major players involved in the designation of the Warren County Tourism Promotion Agency met Thursday. At the request of the Warren County Visitors Bureau, the Warren County Commissioners met with a majority of the bureau's board members to discuss... - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 01-31-2014 **Updated plan for Chesapeake Bay is drafted**
Brook trout, forests, blue crabs, wetlands and oysters are all considered in an updated agreement to make the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries healthier. The states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New York, West Virginia and Delaware; the District of Columbia; the Chesapeake Bay Commission; and the... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)
- 01-27-2014 **Senate committee discusses tourism**
BEDFORD – Focusing on tourism and economic development in rural areas, the state Senate Democratic Policy Committee held a roundtable discussion in Bedford at the request of Sen. John Wozniak. "I'm happy we could bring the policy committee to Bedford," Wozniak... - [Lehighon Times News](#)

WEEK IN REVIEW

- 01-31-2014 **Gov. Tom Corbett's next budget will rely on election-year optimism on economy, pension savings and "Keno" to balance**
What's a governor to do when his new spending plan starts nearly \$1 billion in the red, higher taxes are a non-starter, and he badly wants to increase spending on popular line items like school funding in his re-election year? That's the quandary facing Gov. Tom Corbett as he prepares to unveil... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-31-2014 **Corbett still struggling in F&M poll**
Gov. Tom Corbett may be slightly on the upswing with Pennsylvania voters but his approval ratings remain low, a new poll finds. The survey released Thursday shows Pennsylvania voters are largely unhappy with Corbett's first term. According to the January Franklin & Marshall... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 01-30-2014 **Pa. voters say jobs, money top worries**
Unemployment and personal finances emerged this month as the most important problems to Pennsylvania voters, followed by education, government and politicians, a poll shows. Just more than a quarter of 580 respondents to the Franklin & Marshall College poll listed the economic worries as the top problem facing... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-30-2014 **Pennsylvania Revenue Secretary touts Keno as part of Lottery's growth plan**
Pennsylvania Lottery players could have a new game to play – and play, and play and play – by year's

end. State Revenue Secretary Dan Meuser told the Senate Finance Committee Wednesday that the Lottery's strategic plan calls for the addition of a Keno game, hopefully by the end of 2014.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

- 01-29-2014 **Pa. senators hear all sides of medical marijuana debate**
Patrick Nightingale calls Pennsylvania "the hinterlands of marijuana reform." But Nightingale, executive director of Pittsburgh NORML and a criminal defense attorney, found himself at center stage in Harrisburg on Tuesday as one of nearly a dozen people testifying at a Senate Law and Justice... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-29-2014 **State lawmakers probe rising federal flood insurance premiums**
HARRISBURG — State lawmakers are examining their options to help the thousands of Pennsylvanians facing rising flood insurance premiums and the municipalities and businesses dealing with the fallout due to the Biggert-Waters Act. Monday, the House Democratic Policy Committee hosted a hearing and Tuesday... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 01-28-2014 **Pa. game commission asked to expand deer hunting**
LANCASTER, Pa. — Members of the Pennsylvania Game Commission are being urged to expand deer hunting opportunities in the commonwealth... - [AP](#)
- 01-28-2014 **Corbett asks court to reconsider Voter ID ruling**
Gov. Tom Corbett has asked a state appeals court to review a judge's decision that Pennsylvania's controversial voter ID law is unconstitutional. Commonwealth Court Judge Bernard L. McGinley this month found that the law placed too many barriers between voters and the photo identification cards... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 01-27-2014 **8 Dem gubernatorial contenders lean alike on issues**
HARRISBURG — Political analysts see few differences on major issues among the Democratic candidates for governor, who tend to emphasize their personal narratives and experience. Eight declared candidates in the May 20 primary were invited to participate in a debate on Sunday at Carnegie Mellon University, sponsored by the 14th... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-27-2014 **Pa. eyeing keno and possibly online gambling**
HARRISBURG, Pa. — With top Pennsylvania state lawmakers and Gov. Tom Corbett seeking ways to plug a projected budget deficit, they are considering expanding lottery gambling and, possibly, legalizing online gambling... - [AP](#)