

Malady & Wooten, LLP

Legislative Report

October 25, 2013

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Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session Schedule:

2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

November 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

December 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 (NV)

2013 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

November 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

December 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

FERTILIZER USE ON TURF – SEN. BRUBAKER INTRODUCES BILL

Please find attached Sen. Brubaker’s fertilizer bill that will be introduced in the coming days.

At first glance it looks like Sen. Brubaker took some of our suggestions that we submitted in April. They include:

- The bill as written does not apply to sod farms
- Regarding phosphorus applications by professional fertilizer applicators, the bill states that the application rate should be “in a manner consistent with generally accepted best management practices”
- Added a definition for “readily available” nitrogen

Stephanie from Sen. Brubaker’s staff indicated that the Senate Agriculture Committee is ready to roll with this bill so please review the attached legislation and let me know of any questions, comments or suggestions you have.

PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Notices

[Public hearing](#)

SRBC ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF NEW WATER QUALITY DATA PORTALS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission; www.srbc.net) is announcing the availability of two new data “portals” on its website. The Commission is increasingly providing more data and information on its website to help inform the public on its actions and information related to the water resources of the basin.

“The Commission takes very seriously one of its core mission functions of providing public information and education about the water resources of the basin,” said SRBC Executive Director Andrew Dehoff. “The release of the Water Quality and Mine Drainage data portals makes available to the public another large portion of the data the Commission collects and compiles, in order to enhance their knowledge of water quality conditions across the Susquehanna Basin.”

The Water Quality Portal provides public access to data collected as part of the Commission's monitoring programs to track and assess water quality conditions in the basin. Within the Water Quality Portal, the public can review chemical, biological, and habitat data for rivers and streams across the Susquehanna basin. These data were acquired through single, point-in-time, “grab” samples collected by Commission staff for a variety of long- and short-term projects. Users can select from four categories of data, including water chemistry, habitat, fish, and other aquatic life. The portal provides tools to query and filter data and view sample locations in either a table or on a map. The data contained in the portal cover Commission monitoring activities through 2012, with date ranges extending back to the early 1980s for certain categories like water chemistry.

The Mine Drainage Portal provides public access to data compiled as part of the Commission's efforts to assess and track impacts to water quality from mine drainage in the basin. Within the Mine Drainage Portal, users can find chemical data for parameters typically associated with mine drainage impacts within

the rivers and streams in the basin. These data were acquired from a variety of data sources, including other local, state, and federal agencies, as well as non-governmental groups.

New datasets will be uploaded on a periodic basis after undergoing staff review.

For the direct link to the Commission's Water Quality Portal, visit the website at <http://mdw.srbc.net/waterqualityportal/>.

For the direct link to the Commission's Mine Drainage Portal, visit the website at <http://mdw.srbc.net/minedrainageviewer/>.

For continuous water quality data collected at select locations throughout the basin, please continue to visit the Commission's other web page associated with its Remote Water Quality Monitoring Network at <http://mdw.srbc.net/remotewaterquality/>.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

House Tourism and Recreational Development (PUBLIC HEARING)

TUESDAY - 10/29/13

1:00 p.m., National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street, Philadelphia

Public hearing on:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|---|
| HB 871 | Day, Gary | Amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally), in other subjects of taxation, further providing for excise tax on hotel room rental. |
| HB 872 | Day, Gary | Amends the Tax Reform Code, in sales and use tax, further providing for definitions. |
| HB 873 | Day, Gary | Amends the County Code, in fiscal affairs, further providing for authorization of certain hotel room rental taxes; & in grounds & buildings, further providing for certain hotel room rental taxes. |
| HB 874 | Day, Gary | Amends the Community and Economic Improvement Act further providing for definitions relating to tourism and marketing tax. |

COMMITTEE NEWS

Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee

10/23/13, 10:30 a.m. Rules Committee Conference Room

SB 814 Gordner, John - (PN 853) Amends the Board of Vehicles Act further defining "recreational vehicle show" and adding a definition for "out-of-state recreational vehicle dealer"; and further providing for grounds for disciplinary proceedings and for requirements for out-of-state recreational vehicle dealers for recreational vehicle shows, recreational vehicle off-premise sales, recreational exhibitions and recreational vehicle rallies. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

A03407 by Gordner, a technical amendment. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Sen. Jim Ferlo (D-Allegheny) questioned if legislation makes any tax changes. Sen. John Gordner (R-Columbia), prime sponsor of the bill, said it does not.

BILL REPORT

ATTACHED TO THE REPORT

STATE NEWS

LAWMAKERS APPROVE CAPITAL BUDGET OVERHAUL

The size of a state redevelopment program that has left a big footprint in Pennsylvania will be scaled back under a bill receiving final legislative approval after nearly three years of debate. The measure headed to Gov. Tom Corbett's desk would reduce the debt limit by \$600 million for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) and require a 30-day public comment period before a project is approved.

\$2.5 MILLION SETTLEMENT IN LUZERNE KIDS FOR CASH SCANDAL

Three companies behind private juvenile detention and treatment facilities at the heart of a juvenile justice scandal in northeastern Pennsylvania have settled a civil lawsuit for \$2.5 million. The settlement involving claims brought by thousands of juveniles against PA Child Care, Western PA Child Care and Mid-Atlantic Youth Services Corp. was granted preliminary approval in federal court.

CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

In an otherwise yawn-inducing off-year election, voters will have one important question to decide on Nov. 5: Should they keep the most powerful jurist in Pennsylvania on the bench? Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille, a Republican, seeks to retain the seat he has held for 20 years, the last five as the leader presiding over a court faced with outside scandals and unprecedented internal turmoil. At 69, Castille would be eligible to serve only one year of the 10-year term before reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70, creating turnover on the court once again.

IN THE NEWS

- 10-22-2013 **[Bethlehem Township OKs 120-room hotel](#)**
Bethlehem Township could see its first six-story hotel in about two years after the township commissioners approved plans for the project Monday night. The unanimous vote by the commissioners allows NND Developers of Easton to begin fine-tuning their plan for a 120-room hotel on the south side of... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 10-22-2013 **[Chester County adds 67 acres of open space](#)**
West Pikeland's recent \$6 million agreement to purchase land for open space will add more than 67 acres to the county's 121,078 acres of preserved land. And while the West Pikeland deal was completed by the township, Chester County's department of open space preservation director Bill Gladden... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 10-22-2013 **[Optional property tax bill under consideration](#)**
School districts throughout the state may soon have more options when it comes to acquiring tax revenue to fund the education of children in the Commonwealth. The Optional Property Tax Elimination Act — HB1189 — passed early this month by the state House is now being considered by the state Senate,... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 10-22-2013 **[Jobs open at Seven Springs, Hidden Valley resorts](#)**
Seven Springs Mountain Resort, the new owner of Hidden Valley Resort, will hold a job fair Nov. 9 to fill more than 900 seasonal, part-time and full-time positions at the two resorts. It will be held from

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Festival Hall at Seven Springs. Candidates will complete an application and might be interviewed... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 10-21-2013 **Selling Broadway, National Parks and Hollywood to Foreign Visitors**
Shoppers at London's famed Harrods department store saw something a bit unexpected this fall: ads, videos and even a coveted display window promoting Charleston and the beaches of South Carolina. More of the same appeared on Harrods' green tour buses. Meanwhile, London's red double-decker city buses and ads in the... - [Stateline.org](#)
- 10-21-2013 **Future of tourism is at stake**
Look for the U.S. Travel Association to turn up the heat on federal lawmakers to invest in transportation infrastructure. Erik Hansen, the USTA's director of domestic policy, said the American Society of Civil Engineers has given the nation's infrastructure a... - [Las Vegas Sun](#)

WEEK IN REVIEW

- 10-25-2013 **Corbett tours booming Aker Shipyard**
AN 80-STORY building with 20,000 horsepower. That's how Aker Shipyard executive Scott Clapham described the "Liberty Bay" oil tanker to Gov. Corbett as the pair stared up at the 115,000-ton behemoth during a tour of the South Philly facility yesterday. Corbett came to town to see progress on the tanker, which will be the... - [Philadelphia Daily News](#)
- 10-25-2013 **Pennsylvania State Police protection of Lt. Gov. Jim Cawley's wife cut because of cost**
HARRISBURG — The state police is cutting around-the-clock security for the wife of Lt. Gov. Jim Cawley because it was costing more to protect her than him... - [AP](#)
- 10-24-2013 **Pennsylvania bill to expand gambling clears Senate**
HARRISBURG -- Legislation allowing bars and taverns to host raffles and other games of chance moved quickly Wednesday, clearing the Senate and being positioned for the House floor before leaders there put off the vote. For years, restaurants and bars have pushed for the ability to hold games... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-24-2013 **Corbett signs bill outlawing "triple-dipping" by state retirees**
It took barely 24 hours for Gov. Tom Corbett to put pen to paper and sign into law a bill sent to him on Wednesday that bars state government retirees who return to commonwealth service for a temporary assignment from collecting jobless benefits. The Senate and House both voted unanimously this week to ban this... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 10-23-2013 **U.S. unemployment rate declines; economy adds jobs in education, manufacturing**
The economy was already weak and not getting stronger in September, the month that led up to the federal government shutdown. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Tuesday that unemployment dropped to 7.2 percent in September, slightly better than the 7.3 percent... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-23-2013 **Pa. gaming chief: No quick move to Internet gambling**
New Jersey and Delaware are scheduled to launch Internet gambling this fall, with both states trying to counter the loss of gambling dollars to neighboring states. But don't expect Pennsylvania to quickly follow suit, William H. Ryan Jr., chairman of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, said Tuesday at a... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-22-2013 **Penn State, 3 other schools defend Right-To-Know Law status**
HARRISBURG — Lawyers for Penn State and Pennsylvania's three other "state-related" universities said Monday they should not be fully covered by the state Right-to-Know Law, as lawmakers revisited a previously settled question reignited by the Jerry Sandusky child molestation case... - [AP](#)
- 10-22-2013 **Crucial transportation funding bill still faces major speed bumps in Harrisburg**
It may be a drama being played out on the political stage in Harrisburg, but whether you are paying

attention or not, there's a good chance that what happens — or doesn't happen — there this week will affect you. Debate on a state transportation funding bill has been going since early... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

10-21-2013

Online gambling on the radar of Pennsylvania officials

Pennsylvania needs to look at the effects of legalized online gambling in other states before it considers offering it here, a state senator said. "We want (gambling businesses) to survive here and to prosper, because it puts money in our coffers," said state Sen. Kim Ward, R-Hempfield,... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

10-21-2013

Corbett not giving up his fight for three top priorities

If you are waiting for Gov. Tom Corbett to wave the white flag on his three priorities in the final year of his term, give it up. That was the message of state Secretary of Revenue Dan Meuser, who was in Williamsport recently and assured those attending a Williamsport/Lycoming... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)