

Malady & Wooten, LLP

Legislative Report
November 22, 2013

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Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association

PLEASE NOTE: Reports will not be sent out next week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Reports will resume the following week. Have a nice holiday.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session Schedule:

2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

December	9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 (NV)
January	7 (NV), 13, 14, 15, 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

December	3, 4, 9, 10, 11
January	7, 13, 14, 15, 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

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Notices

[Public hearing and business meeting](#)

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Notices

[Commission meeting](#)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Joint Legislative Conservation Committee

MONDAY - 12/9/13

1:00 p.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing

Environmental Issues Forum with a presentation by analyst and researcher Eric Jespersion entitled "Pennsylvania Water Data - Retrospective and Forward"

COMMITTEE NEWS

Senate Local Government Committee

10:00 a.m., 11/19/13, Room 8E-A East Wing

HB 1523 Toepel, Marcy - (PN 2030) Amends "An act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the local government units thereof to preserve, acquire or hold land for open space uses" adding that revenue from the tax levy may be used for expenses necessary to prepare the resource, recreation or land use plan; and for costs associated with design, engineering, improvement and development of the real property consistent with the approved resource, recreation or land use plan. Effective immediately. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Hutchinson asked if local governments are borrowing money to purchase open space and when the issue bonds, it seems like those who are guaranteeing those bonds would want to ensure the guaranteed funding stream is there to pay for them. He asked if the bill thus undercuts previous bond issuances and their ability to be paid. Executive Director Lee Derr said the bill provides that annual debt service and acquisition fees have to be satisfied first. Chairman Eichelberger said the bill is supported by Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) and that point was made in their communication. PSATS Assistant Executive Director Elam Herr confirmed that issue is taken into consideration.

Sen. Robbins asked for confirmation that it would allow maintenance and for a way to do away with the tax if desired. Chairman Eichelberger said that is the case.

BILL REPORT

ATTACHED TO THE REPORT

STATE NEWS

HOUSE COMMITTEE CONDUCTS HEARING ON TELECOMMUNICATION REGULATION BILL

The House Consumer Affairs Committee conducted a public hearing on HB 1608, also known as the "Telecommunications Market Competition" bill introduced by Rep. Warren Kampf (R-Chester). The legislation amends Title 66 (Public Utilities) regarding the regulation of telephone land line companies. Proponents of the legislation such as Verizon argue the changes are needed to reflect the changes in technology and in the telecommunications marketplace and will create a "level playing field" for land line companies. Opponents argue the bill will lead to higher telephone rates, lower service quality, and allow companies to abandon rural communities. Similar legislation has been enacted in 26 states.

STATE MOVES ON PHILLY TAX BILLS

After months of delay, lawmakers in Harrisburg are finally proceeding with three bills that could improve tax collections in Philadelphia and aid the city's transition to a new property-assessment system. The first bill, which is on its way to Gov. Corbett's desk, would allow the city to place liens on any property in the state that is owned by someone who owes Philly money. Now, the city can only put liens on land in Philly.

LAWMAKERS EXPAND GAMBLING

This week state lawmakers approved small games of chance for taverns and bars, providing patrons an additional 2,500 or so new places to gamble statewide. The accord ends a decade-plus battle by taverns to even the playing field. Soon both taverns and clubs will be able to use games of chance to boost their gambling revenues. Gov. Tom Corbett is expected to sign the bill into law, and it will take effect 60 days later.

IN THE NEWS

- 11-18-2013 **Pocono tourism is about to take off**
While groundwork at the Kalahari Resort site in Tobyhanna has just begun, another undisclosed outside resort firm has already been sniffing out the area. Chuck Leonard, executive director of the Pocono Mountains Economic Development Corp., was mum when asked details about the newest prospect but... - [Pocono Record](#)
- 11-18-2013 **Philadelphia Tourism Agency Uses Social Media To Promote City At Home And Abroad**
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — The Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau launched two social media campaigns for the month of November designed to promote Philadelphia here and abroad. Across the pond, Londoners are encouraged to snap a photo of one of the 11 taxicabs wrapped with Philadelphia images and messaging and post it to... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

WEEK IN REVIEW

- 11-22-2013 **New Pa. education standards win approval**
HARRISBURG -- After a lengthy and sometimes heated review, new math and English standards for Pennsylvania public schools won approval Thursday from a state panel. The Independent Regulatory Review Commission voted 3-2 to approve regulations containing the Pennsylvania Core Standards, drawn both from... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 11-22-2013 **Pa. lawmakers give final OK to \$2.3B highways bill**
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Billions in new taxes and spending for roads, bridges and mass transit in Pennsylvania comfortably cleared a final legislative hurdle Thursday with a bipartisan vote to send a long-stalled bill to the governor... - [AP](#)
- 11-21-2013 **Pa. regulators fine 3 casinos nearly \$300,000**
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Gambling officials have fined three Pennsylvania casinos a total of nearly \$300,000 for violating state regulations... - [AP](#)

- 11-21-2013 **Lawmakers outline plan to shrink Penn State board**
HARRISBURG - A Luzerne County senator proposed reducing the size of Penn State's governing board Wednesday as a way to help the institution recover public trust in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal. Sen. John Yudichak, D-Plymouth Township, unveiled legislation to reduce the... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 11-20-2013 **In reversal, Pennsylvania House passes transportation bill**
HARRISBURG — In an about-face, lawmakers in the House on Tuesday night passed an amended transportation funding bill that would raise up to an additional \$2.4 billion to repair roads, bridges and mass transit systems by 2017-18. The 104-95 vote came a day after the House twice failed to pass the same... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 11-20-2013 **Pennsylvania Senate votes to accept transportation funding bill's terms**
As expected, the Pennsylvania Senate has passed an amendment containing the \$2.4 billion transportation funding package approved by the House of Representatives Tuesday night. This is the first in a series of votes over the next two days that are needed to send the bill to Gov. Tom Corbett's desk.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 11-19-2013 **Pennsylvania House defeats major transportation funding plan**
Pennsylvania's transportation funding debate hit another roadblock Monday when the state House of Representatives voted down a package that would have routed \$2.4 billion into highway, bridge and mass transit funding. The plan, heavily backed by Gov. Tom Corbett and state business interests,... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 11-19-2013 **Gambling expansion at Pa. bars OK'd by lawmakers**
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Thousands of bars in Pennsylvania will be able to offer small games of chance after Gov. Tom Corbett signs a bill given final approval by lawmakers on Monday in the state's largest expansion of gambling since table games at casinos, bringing millions in tax revenue to... - [AP](#)
- 11-18-2013 **State transportation bill could pass this week**
A stalled \$2.5 billion transportation funding plan could be on its way to passage as early as this week . The state House schedule lists the bill for a second vote today. Three successful votes are needed to pass it before it can go back to the Senate for final approval.... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 11-18-2013 **Legislator proposes increasing Pennsylvania's maximum speed limit**
Motorists and safety experts, not surprisingly, have different views on raising the maximum speed limit to 70 mph on some Pennsylvania highways. State Sen. Joseph Scarnati, R-Jefferson, in October circulated a memo seeking co-sponsors for his proposal to increase the maximum speed limit on... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)